

Casualties 'remarkably light' as US announces surrender of 5,500 Iraqis in first few hours

## Dramatic success in allied land battle to free Kuwait, Schwarzkopf says

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED forces swarmed over Kuwait yesterday after launching massive pre-dawn air strikes. The operation was a "dramatic success", the allied commander General Norman Schwarzkopf declared last night.

Troops from 11 of the 28 nations in the coalition against Iraq moved from the south, west and east, by land and by sea at 4am. They met little resistance and by mid-afternoon, General Schwarzkopf said they had achieved all their first-day objectives.

Allied casualties were "extremely light...remarkably light". More than 5,500 Iraqis had been taken prisoner and hundreds more were waving white surrender flags in the face of advancing coalition forces.

The Kuwaiti ambassador in France claimed that the allies had taken control of most of his country and that some 100,000 Iraqi troops had either given up or were fleeing. The ambassador in London said that American paratroopers had taken Kuwait City, and a Kuwaiti brigade was said to have fought its way to al-Jahrah, 25 miles west of the capital. Captain Ahmed al-Sabeh, a member of the ruling

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family and a Mirage F1 pilot, claimed that four or five towns had been liberated and that the country could be free by the national day today.

None of these reports was confirmed, although Saudi forces were reported to have penetrated 10-15 miles into the emirate and to be heading for the capital. Sandy Gall of ITN, who was with them and was the first Western journalist to send back reports from Kuwait, said the launch of the land battle had gone like clockwork. Hundreds of tanks and armoured personnel carriers had poured over the border, past empty Iraqi foxholes, and fanned out across the desert without any resistance. The first Iraqi soldiers were encountered some 10 miles into Kuwait and they quickly surrendered.

The Bush administration, while delighted with the first day of the operation, was quick to caution against over-optimism. James Baker, the secretary of state, pointed out: "Some of their best troops are not engaged and it is premature to say they won't fight."

Baghdad radio claimed allied troops were "dying like flies". Iraqi forces had "burned and destroyed hundreds of enemy tanks, and killed or wounded a large number of soldiers". The communiqué added that several allied aircraft had been repulsed and an airborne force that tried to penetrate behind Iraqi lines had been annihilated in fierce fighting after being encircled by Iraqi soldiers.

As the campaign began, just eight hours after President Bush's deadline for the start of an Iraqi withdrawal, the American defence secretary imposed a news blackout on all military operations. But General Schwarzkopf said they involved land, amphibious, naval and air forces and were huge in their scope. "We are going to go round, through, on top, underneath and any other way necessary to achieve victory," he said.

The pre-dawn final phase of Operation Desert Storm began on the 39th day of the war with massive air strikes, followed by the rapid advance of ground forces in a four-pronged assault. General Schwarzkopf's war plan, outlined in a document six inches thick, called for a blitzkrieg assault using every military

option, including heavy armoured thrusts into Kuwait and Iraq as well as amphibious and airborne assaults.

Early reports from the front line indicated that the allies had penetrated further into Kuwait than had been thought possible, having breached the Iraqi defences to create an operational front line 300 miles long from east to west.

The 11 national forces involved in day one of the ground offensive — the US, Britain, Saudi Arabia, France, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria, Kuwait and Egypt — underlined President Bush's constant reminder to Saddam Hussein that the anti-Iraq coalition was not just an American show. The main drive into Kuwait was carried out by the Arab forces, backed by American marines and airborne troops, to show that the Iraqis were being taken on by fellow Muslims. By contrast, the advance into Iraq to the west of Kuwait was undertaken by American, British and French forces.

One of the principal objectives yesterday was to make a series of breaches in the Iraqi defences along southern and western Kuwait. American, British and Saudi combat engineers opened paths for armoured columns which streamed in behind to hammer enemy artillery and force defenders into the open. US engineers moved behind tanks equipped with mine-clearing ploughs and used a clam-shell bridge section, mounted on top of armoured tracked vehicles, to bridge moats.

The initial thrust was by American Marine Corps M1 and M60 tanks which broke through Iraqi lines towards Wafra, six miles across the Saudi border in Kuwait. But this may have been a diversionary manoeuvre to cause confusion among Iraqis waiting for the first sign of the ground offensive.

The principal armoured action involved Britain's 1st Armoured Division and the 7th US Corps. Working together, they pushed into Iraq west of Wafra al-Batin and were reportedly able to advance for eight hours without meeting any serious resistance. Their objective appeared to be to advance north and then probably cut east across southern Iraq to attack the Republican Guard force straddling the northern Kuwait-Iraq border.

The 14,000-strong French Operation Daguet division was involved in an advance even further west into Iraq. Continued on page 22, col 1



Face of defeat: an Iraqi prisoner of war, one of the 5,500 said by the allies to have been captured yesterday, being guarded by a Saudi soldier

### Saddam calls for 'fight to death'

FROM MARIE COLVIN, OF THE SUNDAY TIMES, IN BAGHDAD

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein called on Iraqis to "fight to the death" yesterday in an emotional speech broadcast nationwide on Baghdad Radio. The Iraqi capital was shrouded in a mixture of anger, betrayal and resignation to the news that the long-awaited ground battle had begun.

Saddam's speech at 10.30am local time was the first official word that what Iraq called the "mother of battles" was underway, although many Iraqis had already heard the news on foreign radio stations. As the Iraqi leader spoke, men clustered around radios at the Shorjah souk in central Baghdad, buyers and sellers frozen in mid-sale.

Saddam struck strong nationalist and religious notes. The Iraqi president opened his discourse with a *surah*, or verse

from the Koran, which counsels that "perhaps sometimes you hate something even though it may turn out to be good for you". The first part of the speech gave a litany of betrayals and deceptions Iraq was said to have suffered at the hands of the West and fellow Arabs.

He repeated the refrain "nasty Bush and dirty Fahd (King of Saudi Arabia) have stabbed us in the back", and appealed to Iraqis to fight for their nation, saying God was on the side of Iraq. "Fight the enemy, oh Iraqis, with all that you have from your great heritage and its history as a people who believe deeply in God and with your desire for independence."

He said Iraq would prevail in the land battle between the two armies face-to-face, a theme he reiterated even before the war: that Iraq's strategy would be to absorb the allies' anticipated hi-tech air attack and then defeat them with superior battle experience on land.

"When the armies of men meet, the technology will be irrelevant and the final result will be decided only by the bravery of the true believers," he said. The announcement dashed the hopes of many Iraqis that a last-minute compromise would be found based on the Soviet peace plan accepted by Saddam, which Continued on page 22, col 5

### East-West coalition in danger of collapse

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MOSCOW and Peking yesterday regretted the launching of the ground offensive, signalling the possible collapse of the international consensus that has all but isolated Iraq. The offensive was also criticised by India, another member of the United Nations Security Council, as well as Cuba and Yemen, the council's hardline dissidents.

In London, however, both the Queen and the prime minister made clear their confidence in the allied offensive. The Queen, addressing the nation, spoke of Britain's pride in its armed forces.

John Major said the start to the land campaign had been "as satisfactory as we could have hoped". Speaking after 15 minutes on the telephone with President Bush, he said the campaign could be tougher in the days to come. Casualties so far had been very light.

"It is right to be cautious. This is a very early stage of the campaign. We must wait and see what happens over a longer period. There may well be more difficult days than we have had thus far," he added.

Mr Major said that continuing reports of atrocities in Kuwait City showed clearly that the allies were right not to delay the ground offensive. "We are still getting continuing reports of atrocities in Kuwait City — damage to buildings, blowing up the parliament building — they are

continuing and I think that does indicate very clearly that we were right to take this action now and not to delay any longer," he said.

In Tehran, President Rafsanjani said Iran and the Soviet Union had been on the verge of obtaining an unconditional Iraqi pullout. "But unfortunately it has become evident that the United States and its allies are pursuing wider aims than Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait," he told Alois Mock, the Austrian foreign minister.

The Pope, too, was critical. "Never as in these hours has war appeared like the seed of death," he said. "Never as in these days has man been called on to make reason prevail over passions."

Moscow said in a government statement read by Vitali Churkin, a foreign ministry spokesman, that a real chance to solve the conflict peacefully had been missed. The Kremlin statement said Friday's Soviet peace plan had opened the way to a peaceful settlement. But, it added, "The instinct for a military solution won through."

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### 150,000 rally to Yeltsin



About 150,000 supporters of Boris Yeltsin turned out for a mass demonstration in central Moscow which pledged "the people's protection" for the Russian president and called for the resignation of President Gorbachev. Page 12

### Channel alert

A six-mile exclusion zone was set up in the Channel when a blazing ship carrying 120 tons of high explosive was abandoned off the Sussex coast. Page 10

### Tirana shooting

Albanian police and troops fired on anti-communist demonstrators in Tirana yesterday as President Alia broadcast an appeal to "isolate vandals and terrorists". Page 12

### Current account

Electricity prices to consumers are likely to rise between 10 and 11 per cent in most of Britain but price increases to industry will be up to 25 per cent. Page 23

### Eubank dispute

Chris Eubank retained his World Boxing Organisation middleweight title with a controversial win over the Canadian, Dan Sherry. Eubank butted Sherry in the tenth round. Page 31

### United in final

Manchester United reached the Rumbelows Cup final by beating Leeds 1-0 (3-1 on aggregate). Sheffield Wednesday defeated Chelsea 2-0 in the first leg of the other semi-final. Page 36

The Engineering Council's list of newly qualified chartered and incorporated engineers will be published tomorrow.

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### Jaguar pilots catch targets on the run

FROM LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

DICK McCormac, an RAF Jaguar pilot, was less than three minutes away from target when a message on the radio told him to go elsewhere. Allied troops had moved so fast they had got there before him and carried out the destruction themselves.

The incident was just one of many among the first reports from the air by Jaguar pilots whose role yesterday switched to close air support for the armies on the ground pressing home their attack. They were able to watch the progress of allied troops pushing up across the border, despite still attracting enemy fire.

After climbing from his jet, blacked-out by carbon deposits, Pilot McCormac, aged 27, from 6th Squadron, RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, gave a dramatic account of the changes in the air campaign now the land battle had commenced.

"Everything is changing so fast," he said. "The whole scene changed two or three minutes before we arrived at the target so they said go and find enemy positions north of this area where it was impossible for our own troops to be. There's an awful lot of

stuff going on, there's kit on the ground, there's tank traps, oil-filled trenches — it's quite mind boggling to see all that kit."

Yesterday for the first time the RAF Jaguars carried the Canadian-made rocket system CRV7. "It's very useful and it's very fast and forward firing which enables you to engage a target at quite a long range. It's actually quite dramatic."

Because of the speed at the progress of the ground troops there were fears that allied forces could be hit by mistake, or even mistaken bombing of enemy troops who had surrendered. "We are operating against troops which are further behind enemy lines. It's controlled on the radio whether you can engage a position or not and if you are cleared into the position then basically we take it as read that there are no white flags in that area."

He added that he thought the targets he was supposed to be attacking were quite likely to be changed. "The fact that our target was changed in the space of a few minutes indicates that the land battle is going forward at some pace. It's good to see that there

is actually progress on the ground and that finally we are getting to some conclusion of this."

Flight Lieutenant Simon Young, aged 28, of 54 Squadron, RAF Coltishall, described the patterns on the ground made by allied tanks where they had broken through enemy lines, often coming from various directions and converging on one point.

"You could see where the enemy lines had been broken, where there were gaps in it where obviously the armour had gone through. But you are worrying about your own pink body at that stage so you don't have much time to see what was going on."

He said his attention was further diverted by enemy fire coming up at him, but added: "You can see where they are all missing and the tracks where they have been. There is certainly a lot of action going on down there. There's a lot of equipment on both sides, more equipment on our side, I would say. It's what we call a target rich environment."

He said after flying around 30 sorties since Desert Storm began there

was a change of atmosphere now the ground war had started. "It's nice to see that we are actually starting and there's a movement going on to get them out of Kuwait and see the end on its way now. That's nice."

"We have been a lot more closely involved taking out artillery and equipment which is going to directly affect our own troops, so it is nice for us to see them overrunning positions and hoping the equipment we have taken out in the last few weeks has done the job."

Flight Lieutenant Toby Craig, aged 27, also of the 6th Squadron, said: "This is what we are trained to do, catching targets on the run." He added that there was no difficulty finding alternative targets after those he was initially tasked against were taken out by the land forces.

Pilot Craig said watching the troops on the ground had been particularly interesting. "It makes me glad that I'm not in the army. I've got a lot of respect for them and they have got a hard job to do, but hopefully they will do it well and quickly and we can all get home."



# American leaders counsel caution as army storms across defences



Mubarak: steadfast ally despite dissent at home

THE "mother of all battles" turned out to be a sorry affair for the Iraqis yesterday. Although many of the reports of mass Iraqi surrenders and rapid allied advances through the length and breadth of Kuwait were clearly wildly exaggerated, the resistance from President Saddam Hussein's combat-experienced soldiers was minimal. But it was only the first day.

Similar unconfirmed reports of allied successes were made after the first night of the air campaign, one of which suggested that the Republican Guard had been "decimated". The majority of the claims turned out to be inaccurate, although the success of the allied precision bombing campaign became more apparent as the raids continued over the next five weeks.

Nevertheless, the hopes voiced yesterday by John Major and other allied leaders, that the ground campaign would be swift, did not seem misplaced after the first day's achievements. Iraq has yet to show

what it means by the mother of all battles. But there is a danger that Iraq is biding its time to mount a counter-attack.

With the Iraqi frontline consisting of conscripts and regular infantry, Saddam must have feared that their powers to resist a rapid allied advance would be limited, especially after the continuous bombing by allied fixed-wing aircraft and strike helicopters. The Iraqi leader will be relying on his Republican Guard to stop the allied advance.

Although these units are dispersed over a wide area south of Basra, they have the capability and experience to come together rapidly and form into a large mobile attacking force. The allies are confident that they can launch air attacks on the guards to prevent them becoming a battle-winning force. They remain a potent threat, however, well the allied advances go in the next few days.

The allied successes on the first

While the initial phase of the land offensive went better than allied commanders could have hoped, Michael Evans reports that Saddam might be biding his time for a counter-attack

day may also be put into reverse by a surprise Iraqi move. It is far too early to be optimistic that the Iraqi army will collapse. However, one of the significant elements of the first day was the involvement of so many Arab units in the allied thrust into Kuwait.

When General Norman Schwarzkopf, the overall allied commander in the Gulf, was planning his land campaign, it was not clear whether he would be able to count on the Syrian and Egyptian forces in the offensive. Both Cairo and Damascus appeared to be willing to participate in the American-led campaign. But would this be guaranteed?

Yesterday Egyptian armoured

forces advanced several miles into Kuwait. Egyptian artillery and rocket launchers also helped prepare for the pre-dawn attack and military engineers opened breaches in Iraqi fortifications to allow armoured and mechanised units through.

Egyptian troops in the Gulf have a specific mission which is to help in liberating Kuwait. They will not enter Iraq. Egypt has 35,000 troops serving with the allied forces. They include the 4th Armoured Division, the pride of the Egyptian army.

President Mubarak, the 62-year-old Egyptian leader, himself a former air force commander, remained a steadfast ally throughout

the allied air campaign, in spite of growing dissent among his own people. President Mubarak, who met his top military advisers yesterday to be briefed on the war developments, summed up his feelings about the Iraqi leader when he said: "I can't imagine that there is anyone who is so stubborn at the expense of the lives of his citizens."

It was feared that the Maginot line of 15ft-high sand berms, oil-filled trenches, minefields and other defensive structures could prevent the allies from advancing rapidly into Kuwait. Although the combat engineering units had the equipment and expertise to breach the defences, the danger was that the Iraqis would be able to bring down heavy artillery fire on to allied armoured units as they attempted to sweep into the country.

But about 30 minutes after the invasion began, US marines in eastern Saudi Arabia advanced and overran the first minefields, barbed

wire and other obstacles of Iraq's defences, blasting them aside with concentrated fire. The first defence line was about half a mile deep with multiple rows of anti-personnel and anti-tank minefields, bunkers and slit trenches. The second belt lay about five miles further. Again, the marines surged through the line and struck on into the Kuwaiti interior. The marines came under Iraqi artillery and anti-tank fire as they surged across the northern Saudi border at 5.30am in driving rain. No casualties were reported for either side.

Marine commander Lieutenant-General Walter Boomer said his men in the first six hours of the ground war cleared six lanes through minefields and advanced rapidly, meeting little resistance. "It's going very well — it's gone too smoothly. Any commander gets concerned in that situation," he said. He then gave this warning: "The further we move, the harder the fight will become."

## KUWAIT

### Iraqi troops destroy key buildings in occupied city

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IRAQI forces last night blew up the parliament building and four luxury hotels in Kuwait City as Baghdad's scorched-earth policy went into full swing, Kuwaiti exiles said. Other buildings are also likely to be destroyed before the allies can reach the city.

However, joy at the prospect of speedily expelling the Iraqi troops from Kuwait increased last night as reports emerged that Kuwaiti forces would lead the allied advance into the capital. Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Co-operation Council, confirmed that Arab forces would lead the final assault. He denied earlier reports that American forces had already parachuted into the city.

But the jubilation at the extent of allied successes was tempered by the reports that the occupation forces were continuing to murder Kuwaiti civilians. A senior Kuwaiti military source in Riyadh said the parliament building and the hotels in Kuwait City had been blown up by the occupation forces as the allies continued to advance on the capital.

Kuwaitis abroad noted with subdued satisfaction that the

liberation of the emirate had begun on the eve of its independence day anniversary, which falls today. "It seems that our homeland could be free within days," said a Kuwaiti businessman, "but I dread to think in what condition we will find it."

Officials at the Association for a Free Kuwait in London said they believed the number of murders, perpetrated by the occupation forces in the past few days, could be in the region of 800. They said the number of oil wells on fire had risen to more than 300.

In Washington Robert Gates, the deputy national security adviser, said President Saddam Hussein was clearly trying to destroy what was left of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti exiles were heartened by the fact that the first reports of the allied advance into Kuwait were filed by the Kuwaiti news agency, Kuna, and that a Kuwaiti brigade was said to be in the vanguard of the fighting. However, a Kuwaiti military source in Riyadh later denied many of the agency's claims.

He said that in addition to the parliament building, the Iraqis had destroyed the Sheraton, Meridien, Plaza and Marriott hotels. "We fear they have around 180 more targets inside the city they are planning to destroy," he said.

In London, officials of the Kuwaiti news agency declined on security grounds to discuss how they were obtaining their reports. Twelve hours after the start of the ground offensive, the agency claimed that the allied forces were in control of Kuwait City.

The agency, claiming to quote official military sources, had reported that tens of thousands of Iraqi troops were surrendering. It also claimed that the al-Shabab (Martyr) brigade, a Kuwaiti contingent, had fought its way to the town of al-Jahra, 25 miles west of Kuwait City, less than eight hours after the ground offensive began. It added that an amphibious landing by US marines was underway and that allied paratroopers had landed in Kuwait.

A Kuwaiti government information official said in Doha that Kuwaiti residents, contacted on the exiles' underground communications network, said the skies filled with paratroopers soon after the allies launched their offensive. The official conceded that the reports could be misleading but said he was confident they were accurate.

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### First to the front without a permit

FROM SANDY GALL  
IN A POOLED DISPATCH  
FROM KUWAIT

IT WAS ONE of the most dangerous journeys I have ever undertaken — across no-man's-land into the Kuwaiti battlefield. We had no real idea what lay in front of us and our only guide was the tank tracks of the Saudi force which had blasted its way through the first Iraqi defences.

My brief was quite simple. I wanted to be the first journalist to witness the battle for Kuwait — and be the first back with the pictures. With cameraman Steve Harrow and producer Michael Gillings I'd spent the night close to the border, hoping not to be spotted. It had been pointless asking for approval from the allies.

We set off at first light, trying to keep the Saudi tanks in sight so that we knew where we were going, but keeping far enough behind so they could not turn us back.

It wasn't until we were 15 miles into Kuwait that we came across the first scenes of battle — deserted Iraqi bunkers, the remains of weapons and a couple of dozen Iraqis who had surrendered. It was an amazing sight... the Saudis were jubilant and some of the Iraqis looked just as happy that their battle was over.

One of the Iraqis had a bad head wound and another looked as if he'd been shot in the neck. But the Saudis behaved properly and, as far as I could see, they offered medical aid and comfort.

The Saudis sent the POWs back towards the allied line and I decided to pull out too, anxious to get my story on air.

Suddenly, we were confronted by Americans supporting the advance. Our car had no markings... they challenged us and we were able to explain. Thankfully they thought before firing.



Tough at the top: General Norman Schwarzkopf, the allied commander, answering questions. He said the attack was "progressing with remarkable success", but details would be limited to avoid jeopardising operations

## Challenger regains reputation

By KEVIN EASON

A TANK stopped in the desert presents a target the size of a small bungalow for enemy gunners. So every breakdown and fuel stop is as critical for the crew of a Challenger tank as for a Formula One racing driver watching the seconds tick by at a pit stop.

In spite of its lumbering frame, the 62-ton Challenger is a machine which suffers stresses and strains more in common with a high-powered racing car than with a bulldozer. It has a 1,200 brake horsepower diesel engine, about as powerful as a racing car driven by Nigel Mansell.

Reliability is crucial. A breakdown means that the tank may be caught in the gun

sights of an enemy which can use thermal sensors to trace heat emissions from its 26-litre V12 Rolls-Royce engine.

The Challenger's reputation before the Gulf conflict gave little cause for optimism. Its performance in the desert was a key factor in deciding whether Vickers, the Leeds-based manufacturer, wins the £1.4 billion contract to supply 590 tanks to the Ministry of Defence to replace the ageing Chieftain fleet in Germany.

Trials have shown the Challenger I trailing badly against competition from the United States Abrams M1 tanks and the German Leopard, both of which are being considered for the contract. Six months in the

desert have proved the Challenger to be reliable and a potentially powerful weapon.

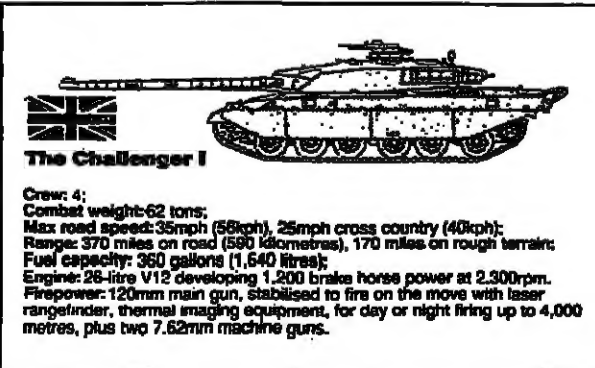
A key factor is the tank's range between refuelling. The Challenger needs just one fuel stop a day, making it less vulnerable to attack. The Abrams M1A1 is a "gas guzzler" by comparison, requiring two or three fuel stops a day.

● SAUDI ARABIA: Allied tanks met light resistance as they advanced into Iraq and Kuwait in the early hours of the ground war yesterday. American fighter pilots on missions over the battlefield said. One pilot said the scope of the allied land assault was "enormous".

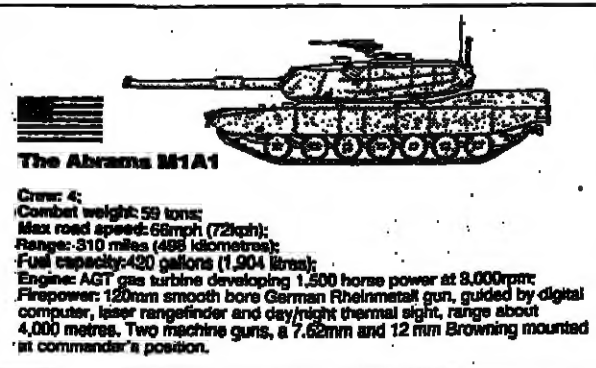
American F-16A fighter-bombers pounded Iraqi artillery positions in western Iraq, which had been firing at the advancing allied force, the pilots said. In one case, five of six Iraqi artillery batteries were left in flames.

The tanks advanced more than 12 miles into Iraq and five miles into Kuwait. The advance stretched across a 300-mile front from the Gulf to western Iraq. It appeared to follow pre-battle scenarios for the air-land campaign to breach President Saddam Hussein's wall of bunkers in Kuwait and flank his army from the west. (AP)

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



The Challenger I  
Crew: 4  
Combat weight: 62 tons  
Max road speed: 50mph (80kph)  
Range: 370 miles on road (500 kilometres), 170 miles on rough terrain  
Fuel capacity: 350 gallons (1,540 litres)  
Engine: 26-litre V12 developing 1,200 brake horsepower at 2,500rpm  
Firepower: 120mm main gun, stabilised to fire on the move with laser rangefinder, thermal imaging equipment, for day or night firing up to 4,000 metres, plus two 7.62mm machine guns.



The Abrams M1A1  
Crew: 4  
Combat weight: 59 tons  
Max road speed: 50mph (80kph)  
Range: 310 miles (495 kilometres)  
Fuel capacity: 420 gallons (1,590 litres)  
Engine: AGT gas turbine developing 1,500 horsepower at 8,000rpm  
Firepower: 120mm smooth bore German Rheinmetall gun, guided by digital computer, laser rangefinder and day/night thermal sight, range about 4,000 metres. Two machine guns, a 7.62mm and 12.7mm Browning mounted at commander's position.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### Schwarzkopf chooses words with caution

FROM REUTERS IN RIYADH

IN HIS briefing on the initial stages of the ground offensive for control of Kuwait, General Norman Schwarzkopf, American commander of the allied forces in the Gulf, said yesterday: "As you know, last night at my briefing, [US defence] secretary [Richard] Cheney mentioned that in the critical, early stages of the military operation, it is absolutely imperative to deny the enemy any information on the disposition, actions or plans of our forces. For that reason, he stated that we were going to temporarily suspend the daily scheduled briefings, both in the Pentagon and here in Riyadh."

"Secretary Cheney also said, however, that he wanted to keep the American public informed... The purpose of my comments is to give you a brief assessment of the progress to date of the ground phase of Operation Desert Storm."

The contents of my briefing will be limited to the release of information which we feel will not jeopardise the progress of our operations, nor will it in any way endanger the lives of our troops on the battlefield. I know that you will understand our great concern for the operation's security, and I also know that the American people would demand nothing less.

"Let me first make the point that this is an initial update, and it's based on preliminary reports from commanders in the field... At 0400 hours local [time] this morning, coalition forces began a major ground, naval and air offensive to eject Iraqi forces from Kuwait. I want to emphasise, this is a coalition effort. The countries participating so far are the United States, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, France, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Syria and, of course, Kuwait."

"US forces in this morning's attack were US marines, army paratroopers, army special forces and army special forces. These forces, along with French and Arab forces, have already reached all of their first-day objectives, and are continuing their attack."

"Early this afternoon, US Army mechanised and armoured forces, along with the forces of the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Syria also launched attacks, and they are moving north with great speed. With the exception of one early afternoon engagement between the marine task force and an Iraqi armoured unit, contact with the enemy can best be characterised as light."

"Coalition air forces... are all conducting air operations to support the ground commanders, and they continue to strike key strategic targets."

"The United States, the

United Kingdom, Saudi and Kuwaiti naval forces are conducting carrier air, mine-sweeping, naval gunfire support and, of course, amphibious missions along the east coast of Kuwait."

"Ten hours into this ground offensive, more than 5,500 prisoners have been captured. And we've received reports of many hundreds more north of our positions with white surrender flags."

"Friendly casualties have been extremely light — as a matter of fact, remarkably light. So far, the offensive is progressing with dramatic success, the troops are doing a great job, but I would not be honest if I didn't remind you that this is the very early stages. We're a little more than 12 hours into this offensive, and the war is not over yet."

### 'Tanks crossed berm with ease'

"THROUGHOUT the day, as Missouri's guns were pounding away, we felt the reverberations of the shells hitting their targets. There was a tremendous crack as each shell was fired, sending vibrations through the ship" — Commander Philip Wilcock, captain of HMS Gloucester.

"It went very smoothly this morning. I started about dawn. We crossed the dreaded berm with comparative ease. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers rolled across without any resistance..." — Sandy Gall of ITN in the first eye-witness report of the land offensive by a Western journalist.

"The offensive is progressing with dramatic success, the troops are doing a great job... it is going to take as long as it takes for the Iraqis to get out of Kuwait and the United Nations resolutions to be enforced. We are going to go around, over, through, on top, underneath and any other way they can" — General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of allied forces in the Gulf.

"I can't fathom the size of this (land) operation. I can't grasp it. It is enormous" — Lieutenant-Colonel Randy Bigum, US pilot returning to Saudi Arabia from Kuwait.

"Fight them, fight them, fight them" — President Saddam Hussein in a radio address to Iraqi forces.

"We assert the steadfast position of the armed forces, who are fighting courageously and have been inflicting heavy losses on the attackers" — a military spokesman quoted on Baghdad Radio.

"The liberation is under way. I have complete confidence in the ability of the coalition forces swiftly and decisively to accomplish their mission" — President George Bush.

"As a nation we are rightly proud of our armed forces. That pride has been fully justified by their conduct in the Gulf war so far" — the Queen in an unprecedented broadcast.

"There is no doubt in my mind that it is an absolutely justifiable conflict and we will win it..." — John Major at Chequers.

## Battle-ready marines demand their piece of the action

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR  
IN WASHINGTON

AS THE elite troops of the United States Marine Corps go into battle, their guiding light will be "the thoughts of General Gray", the book of rules issued by their commander. General Alfred Gray, the 29th commander of the corps, is a man whose battle-readiness is symbolised by his use of a camouflage-painted mug even in the dining room of the joint chiefs of staff.

He has waged a personal war on careerists who lack professional skills. The name given to his book of rules is apt, for he is reportedly no more keen on dissent than Mao Tse-tung was, telling his men in September that "there will be no morale problem... because I say

there will be morale". General Gray is a small, stocky, shorn-headed figure, heavily decorated in Vietnam, a war whose end he organised from the roof of the American embassy in Saigon.

General Gray has made a mission out of the marines' readiness for battle. His men were some of the fastest into the Kuwaiti theatre and they want their part in the show.

The marines claim to be America's toughest elite force and hope to add the battle of the Gulf to the honours won in the Pacific war at Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal and in Korea at Inchon. But their survival as a fighting force through the changing fashions of modern warfare owes as much to politics as bravery. They are the most politi-

cally attuned of any part of the American service and their strength comes from selling themselves ruthlessly as well as fighting enemies.

The marines originated as security officers for the navy in the 18th century. They have since been transformed into the mighty amphibious force, which waits off Kuwait today.

Unlike the army, navy and air force, each of which has its natural element of operation, the marines have had to survive on their wits, which consequently, according to Western defence salesmen and strategists, are the most formidable in the American military. In the past weeks they have been pitting those wits against President Saddam Hussein, moving their landing craft up

and down the coast and putting out deceptive electronic signals, trying to ensure that, when the order comes to go ashore, the Iraqi defenders from their feared Silkworm and Exocet missiles, have the least possible warning.

The corps' history of amphibious landings is one of extremes of disaster and success, from Gallipoli in 1915, which cost thousands of allied lives through poor planning, to General MacArthur's Inchon assault in 1950, which changed the course of the Korean war. Two Jims, the greatest pride of the marines, cost 26,000 casualties before the famous flag was raised on Suribachi, to be immortalised in photograph and statue and ensure, as the then navy secretary observed, that there

would be a US Marine Corps for the next 500 years. Two days after Operation Desert Storm began, General Norman Schwarzkopf said that he had ordered an increased number of landing craft into the northern Gulf. It was immediately assumed that, when the order came to retake Kuwait, the marines would be in the forefront.

Possibly as part of the disinformation which characterises the Gulf today, it was later suggested that the marine landing might be a "strategic feint" to tie down five Iraqi divisions. Nobody in Washington, however, would be keen to deliver news of non-combatant status to the marines. They have let their feelings be known about being largely kept out of Grenada and Panama.

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## Resistance crumbles as allies breach Iraqi lines

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER ON THE SAUDI-KUWAIT BORDER

ACID rain lashed down from a sky choked with the effluent of 200 blazing oil well fires as tanks and artillery from ten nations yesterday launched the biggest ground offensive since the second world war.

In spite of the weather, which rendered noon in the desert as dark as a normal twilight, the allies found by nightfall that none of President Saddam Hussein's dire threats to stain the sand red with their blood or to swing the mood of American public opinion with 10,000 returning body bags had materialised.

On a drive up the last 60 miles of the main tarmac road to the front, I saw only one ambulance making its way back to the rear evacuation hospitals situated in the port of al-Jubail. A Saudi guard, so relaxed that the cover was still over the mounted machinegun on his lorry, claimed that traffic accidents normally counted for the use of more than a single ambulance in a day.

In the face of a news blackout ordered to thicken the fog of war, more specific accounts were impossible to come by, even from those close to the minimal fighting between the two sides. But one Western military source said: "I think we may pull

this off with much less than the 10 per cent allied casualty figure the armchair generals have been predicting."

While many of Saddam's forces remain too frightened to leave their fortified positions because of the pounding from Apache helicopters, Harrier jump jets, mobile artillery et al, the allied supply lines were as thick with traffic as a bank holiday afternoon without the slightest attempt at anti-aircraft protection. At least one propeller-driven plane flew towards Kuwait, apparently to drop paratroopers to join those reported in Kuwait City.

Remembering the scandalous 30 per cent of American casualties in Vietnam caused by "friendly fire", vehicles racing north with fresh supplies of ammunition, barbed wire to set up POW camps and even the occasional speed boat to beef up the amphibious arm of the assault, were covered in signs to ward off American rather than Iraqi pilots.

They had upside down V signs painted on the sides and any available form of orange fluorescent strip attached to the roof. Journalists operating outside the allied pool system improvised with sticky tape to ward off the eager helicopter



On the move: a convoy of American personnel carriers, armed with TOW anti-tank missiles and with a helicopter escort, heads north into Kuwait soon after the start of the offensive

gunsmiths, whose predecessors in Vietnam used to describe their trade as "zapping Charlie Cong".

Although the timing of the attack surprised nobody except those Iraqi soldiers still digesting the mission of their fighting for a "19th province" their government had apparently already agreed in Moscow to evacuate, its speed amazed those fed on propaganda images of the might of the so-called "Saddam line".

By mid-morning American pilots, who were having to rely on instrument flying because of the smoke rising from burning oil wells, had reported that at one stage during the four-pronged advance the "fire-support co-

ordination line" on the ground had moved forward about five miles in five minutes.

Allied sources claimed that French forces led by the polyglot ranks of the Foreign Legion had advanced 12 miles in only four hours, claimed by some Parisians as something of a record. "They encountered much less resistance than expected," the sources added.

With 10,000 POWs expected during the first 36 hours of the invasion — and a possible total of 200,000 predicted in the allied battle plan — another official was unable to resist boasting that by noon "the biggest problem" facing allied ground forces is coping with the

large number of Iraqi troops surrendering to them."

Allied officers acknowledged that the more determined, non-conscripted Iraqi troops were still to be encountered, but said that mass surrenders were still expected, even after a more spirited resistance. One European who was shown the battle plan claimed that beyond the 100,000 who could be accommodated in Saudi Arabia, plans had been approved to deprive any others of their weaponry and send them back to Iraq.

Under the Schwarzkopf plan, finalised two weeks ago but kept such a closely guarded secret that those pool reporters privy to it were barred from leaving the units to which they were assigned, it is envisaged that Britain's First Armoured Division, led by the low profile Major-General Rupert Smith, may end up facing the Republican Guard.

The British, who number only 35,000 of nearly 600,000 men involved in the assault, are said by those who have recently met members of the Desert Rats to be reacting with "a mixture of pride and mild apprehension" at the responsibility likely to be thrown on them.

But such has been the destruction rate of Iraqi equipment in the devastating air war, with 40 per cent of its tanks and half its artillery pieces destroyed before the first pre-dawn barrage of yesterday's assault was fired, that even the Republican Guard is considered to have little will for long-term resistance.

"I should be surprised, genuinely surprised, if this lasts more than a week," Colonel David Hackworth, a leading American defence analyst and a bitter critic of US military policy in Vietnam when he became the country's most decorated living officer, said. "Either they left voluntarily by mid-day on Saturday, or they will have left by different means by mid-day next Saturday."

A marine sergeant guarding a post in Saudi Arabia that was often attacked by Iraqi fire before G Day looked surprised when asked whether there had been incoming Iraqi shells as the cross-border attack was under way. "No sir," he said. "As far as I know of, not a single one."

The early success of the allied campaign was reflected in a new attitude of tolerance shown by American military officials to those correspondents trying to operate outside the rigidly controlled and heavily vetted pool system. Two of us from Britain were told by an apologetic captain to return south, while a third colleague was informed by a grinning military policeman: "I should arrest you, but I am too busy."

(This report is subject to allied reporting restrictions)

## Unseen Apaches stalk the bewildered enemy

FROM REUTER IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE first video film of Gulf war ground fighting shows terrified Iraqi infantrymen shot to pieces in the dark by American helicopters. One by one they were cut down, bewildered by an enemy they could not see.

The footage was shot through the night vision goggles of Apache AH64 attack helicopters, which turn pitch dark into ghostly day. Reporters and hardened soldiers held their breath when the first video was shown in a briefing tent of the 18th Airborne Corps. Newsmen did not say where or when the engagement took place. No casualty count was given.

Apaches of the 6th Cavalry, the Knight Riders, equipped with cannons, laser-guided missiles and infra-red optics, have led several strikes behind Iraqi lines in recent days, raiding bunkers and taking prisoners.

"I just didn't quite envision going up there and shooting the hell out of everything in the dark and have them not

know what the hell hit them," said Ron Balak of Bessmer, Nebraska. "A truck blows up to the right, the ground blows up to the left. They had no idea where we were or what was hitting them."

Reporters at an Apache base in northern Saudi Arabia, watched a video in which three helicopters destroyed a Soviet-made radar installation inside Iraq.

Chief Warrant Officer Arthur Gribenski, of Durham, North Carolina, who fired two Hellfire missiles into the complex, said his flight was stalking a lorry convoy as its target of the night. With the convoy in sight, a radar detector went red, showing that the helicopter had been picked up by Iraqi radar. The flight decided to go after the radar.

"We saw what we needed to see, we engaged and took it out," WO Gribenski said. "The night systems were perfect. It was pretty dark. The naked eye couldn't see a thing."

The videotape shows the

## Hospital sees no injured in first hours

FROM BILL AKASS IN A POOLED DISPATCH FROM EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

EVERY Sunday for 16 weeks they had prayed for peace. Yesterday they prayed that there was mercy in Hell.

The 900 doctors and nurses manning the 600-bed main British field hospital have braced themselves for the worst. For the first 12 hours at least, it seemed that their prayers were answered. Not one casualty was brought in.

"If they had taken casualties, we would have expected to see some before now," Colonel Ian Creamer, commanding officer of the unit, said. "It's very good news. We hope very much that the only people we'll need to treat are Iraqis."

Colonel Creamer was given no warning of the offensive. When the news had filtered through, there was no panic. "There was a sense of relief that the waiting was over."

The field hospital, based inside a disused warehouse, has 12 operating theatres and a team of surgeons capable of performing the most complex surgery. Should casualties arise, they will receive the same standard of treatment they could expect from a general hospital in Britain.

Yesterday doctors and nurses gathered under the cookhouse tarpaulin for a service by Anglican and Roman Catholic priests. "There was an extraordinary mixture of relief and apprehension," Captain Christopher Walker, the Anglican chaplain, said.

"We have prayed and prayed that it would never happen. Tremendous tension had built up and suddenly there was a sense of relief, of finally letting go. I am entirely at peace in my own mind that this is a just war. But there is always a price to pay."

## French units push 35 miles into Iraq

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH Foreign Legion tanks pushed more than 35 miles deep into Iraqi territory, west of Kuwait, yesterday and took at least 1,000 Iraqi prisoners, General Michel Roquejeoffre, the French chief of staff, said. Only one French soldier was wounded, but not critically.

The operation, a bold encircling movement, was designed to cut off supply lines to President Saddam Hussein's forces, military sources and the French media said.

French forces had pushed as far as 50 miles into Iraq.

The French forces encountered no opposition and sustained no casualties when they crossed the border close to a fort that Iraqi troops had abandoned some days ago, La Cinq television quoted a French officer as saying.

The French objective is to reach the strategic Iraqi city of An Nasiriyah, about 120 miles north of the Saudi frontier and 240 miles southeast of Baghdad. The city is a key point

along one of the main Iraqi supply routes to Basra and Kuwait, radio reports said.

About 2,650 Foreign Legionnaires, a quarter of the French troops stationed in Saudi Arabia, were believed to have taken part in the initial French assault. Military experts cautioned that, in spite of the dramatic progress made by the French troops, much of the terrain they covered was uninhabited desert. The first assaults on key Iraqi positions were probably still to come.

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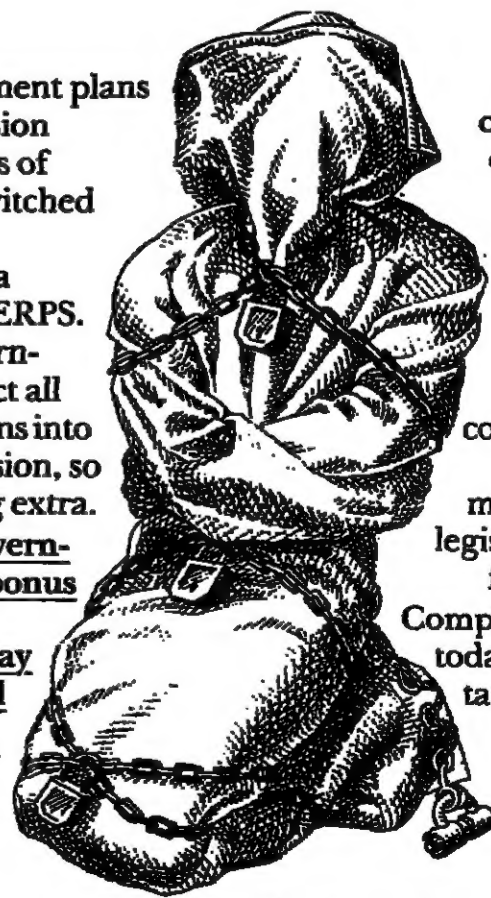
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Borden shared: Amy Stuart, a nurse, sleeping with her teddy bear just before her US Army 5th MASH unit advanced to the front at the start of the land war

## Mighty prelude to assault from sea

FROM JAMIE DEITMER ON BOARD HMS GLOUCESTER

NAVAL forces opened their final assault on Iraqi forces in Kuwait with a massive bombardment from one of the world's most powerful warships, the battleship USS Missouri. In a stunning prelude to the amphibious assault, the 48-year-old Iowa-class battleship opened fire with her nine 16in guns 1½ hours after Iraq failed to meet President Bush's deadline for withdrawal from Kuwait.

Missouri's bombardment of Iraqi missile sites, artillery positions and troop emplacements on the Kuwait coast marked the end of America's patience. President Saddam Hussein had promised the world the "mother of battles"; the allies answered with the grandmother of battleships. A

dozen shells were unleashed in the first four salvos by Missouri.

The bombardment continued for several hours. Each shell, able to strike a target more than 20 miles away, weighed 1,900lb. Those of us on Gloucester's gun decks stood momentarily transfixed when the shelling began. An orange-red flame billowed from the muzzles of the guns, lighting up for a split second the shape of the battleship. Gloucester vibrated with each blast.

Missouri's shelling followed several days of allied aerial bombardment of Iraqi military targets on the Kuwaiti coast. Since midweek, American B52 bombers have been pounding Iraqi positions. On

Friday night, one explosion rattled the hangar door of a British frigate more than 30 miles away and a ball of fire and flying debris could be seen on the horizon from miles around.

Missouri's assault was the culmination of the efforts of dozens of British and American warships over the past few weeks. The battleship was manoeuvred into position after an intensive mine-clearance operation led by five British Hunt-class minesweepers. Earlier HMS Herald, the mine-clearance command ship, led the five minesweepers — Ledbury, Cattistock, Dulverton, Atherton and Hurworth — past the Missouri. The 57,000-tonne Missouri towered over

the 625-tonne minesweepers, which are made from glass-reinforced plastic.

The aiming of Missouri's salvos was aided by pictures sent to the battleship from a remote piloted vehicle, a small aircraft drone equipped with a camera which is flown over the target area. HMS Gloucester and other allied warships provided anti-aircraft defence cover for Missouri. They were also prepared for any attempted Iraqi Silkworm missile strike against the ship.

Captain Philip Willocks said: "We have been providing air defence cover initially for the carriers, then the minesweepers and now for the battleship."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

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# Bush will fight until machinery of Saddam's government is destroyed

THE United States is determined to prosecute the ground war as far as is necessary to destroy President Saddam Hussein's machinery of government, administration sources said yesterday. Secret promises to Arab and Israeli leaders over the past six months, most recently to President Mubarak of Egypt, have contributed to the deep sweep that coalition forces are taking into Iraqi territory.

Military commanders have been reluctant to commit themselves to capturing or killing the Iraqi leader, but their manner of recapturing Kuwait has been chosen to maximise Saddam's humiliation and minimise the possibility that he can successfully retain peacetime control of the country.

"Diplomacy is not dead just because war has begun," one State Department official said. "Our war aims include making sure that we will not have to fight the same war again any time soon."

That means a functioning Iraq — and Iraq does not function under Saddam Hussein.

Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's national security adviser, said yesterday that the size of future American forces in the Gulf would depend on the nature of the Iraqi regime. Both the Saudi and Kuwaiti leaders have told the United States that they want the minimum American ground forces in the area as quickly as possible — an outcome that is considered possible only if a new Iraqi government takes over.

Saudi sources have said that American determination to remove Saddam was an essential ingredient in allowing Operation Desert Shield to begin. Egyptian officials have issued repeated warnings about the danger of leaving Saddam as a focus for anti-Americanism in the Gulf after the war ends.

Mr Mubarak, who was assured by Mr Bush that the land war would begin

The manner of recapturing Kuwait has been chosen to maximise Saddam's humiliation and minimise the possibility that he can retain peacetime control of Iraq, Peter Stothard, US editor, writes

before the last week of February, is one of the most powerful coalition voices for "finishing the job", according to American sources. Egyptian manpower, linked to Saudi wealth, forms the essential plank upon which the United States hopes to build a more secure Middle East.

Washington also wants to avoid an Israeli vendetta attack against the Iraqi leader, which would greatly complicate the post-war peace process. The chief worry in the State Department on Friday and Saturday was that the Soviet Union, driven by conservatives in its army, would come down more strongly on

Saddam's side, forcing Washington towards a choice between Saddam's head and President Gorbachev's job.

Yesterday, however, the final verdict on the last-minute Soviet peace initiative was benign. "Mr Gorbachev showed us, his own military and the rest of the world that he had done his best to make Saddam see sense," the official said, "and, although I wouldn't say Moscow is fully behind us, both the US and Soviet presidents should probably be satisfied."

General Scowcroft carefully refrained from criticising Moscow yesterday, although he made clear the administra-

tion's continuing opposition to Soviet moves at the United Nations to lift the sanctions against Iraq before it is clear who will be in charge in Baghdad.

The diplomatic calm and the early success of the ground war offensive raises the military possibility that even deeper strikes into Iraq could be safely contemplated — even as far as Baghdad itself.

The White House is determined not to appear to be running the campaign from Washington, but sources said that further political input in the decision-making might be needed within only 24 hours.

The present land campaign includes a wide sweep into Iraq, designed to encircle the Republican Guard and prevent their escape. General Scowcroft confirmed that both the date and broad outlines had been fixed for planning purposes some weeks ago. Mr Bush gave the final orders from his Camp David

retreat as soon as Saturday's noon deadline had passed.

The president followed his decision with a night-time return to the White House by helicopter, making a short, grim statement about "the final phase" to the continuous clicking of hundreds of press cameras and blanket television coverage which, in the absence of much military news, concentrated on the commander in chief.

Justification for the controversial land phase of Operation Desert Storm had been bolstered earlier on Saturday by last-minute charges of Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait City. The White House is determined that there be no let-up in the battle to keep the hearts and minds of the American people.

Further atrocities against Kuwaiti civilians, or news of the use of chemicals against troops, may be a sign that an even deeper attack into Iraqi territory is on the way.

## SOVIET UNION

### Downcast Kremlin still sees chance for UN peace deal

FROM MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet government yesterday expressed regret at the start of the allied ground offensive to free Kuwait, saying that a chance for a peaceful solution had been missed. However, it declined to condemn the allied action, despite earlier warnings that a ground offensive could adversely affect superpower relations, and called for renewed diplomatic efforts to end the war through the United Nations.

The first Soviet response was contained in a formal government statement, read to reporters by Vitali Churkin, the foreign ministry spokesman. After detailing Soviet diplomatic efforts, the state-

ment concluded: "The Soviet Union expresses regret that a very real chance to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict and attain those objectives defined in the UN Security Council resolutions without further human casualties and material destruction was missed."

"The discrepancies between the formulae agreed by Iraq and the proposals of several other countries were not great. They could have been submitted to the UN Security Council for agreement in one to two days. It is still not too late to do that. The security council, which is meeting now, should study the situation without

delay." After reading the statement, Mr Churkin refused to take questions.

There has so far been no response to the land offensive from President Gorbachev's office, although the government statement made clear that the Soviet president had personally made great efforts to avert the start of the land conflict.

He was said to have spoken by telephone to the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Syria, Egypt and Iran, and to have sent personal messages to heads of state and government of all permanent members of the UN security council, briefing them on the outcome of the talks in Moscow with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister.

The statement said that the Moscow talks had produced "qualitative shifts" in Iraq's position and that the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations had taken steps to convene an emergency session of the security council to try to reach agreement on outstanding issues. Despite this progress, "the instinct for a military solution was strong".

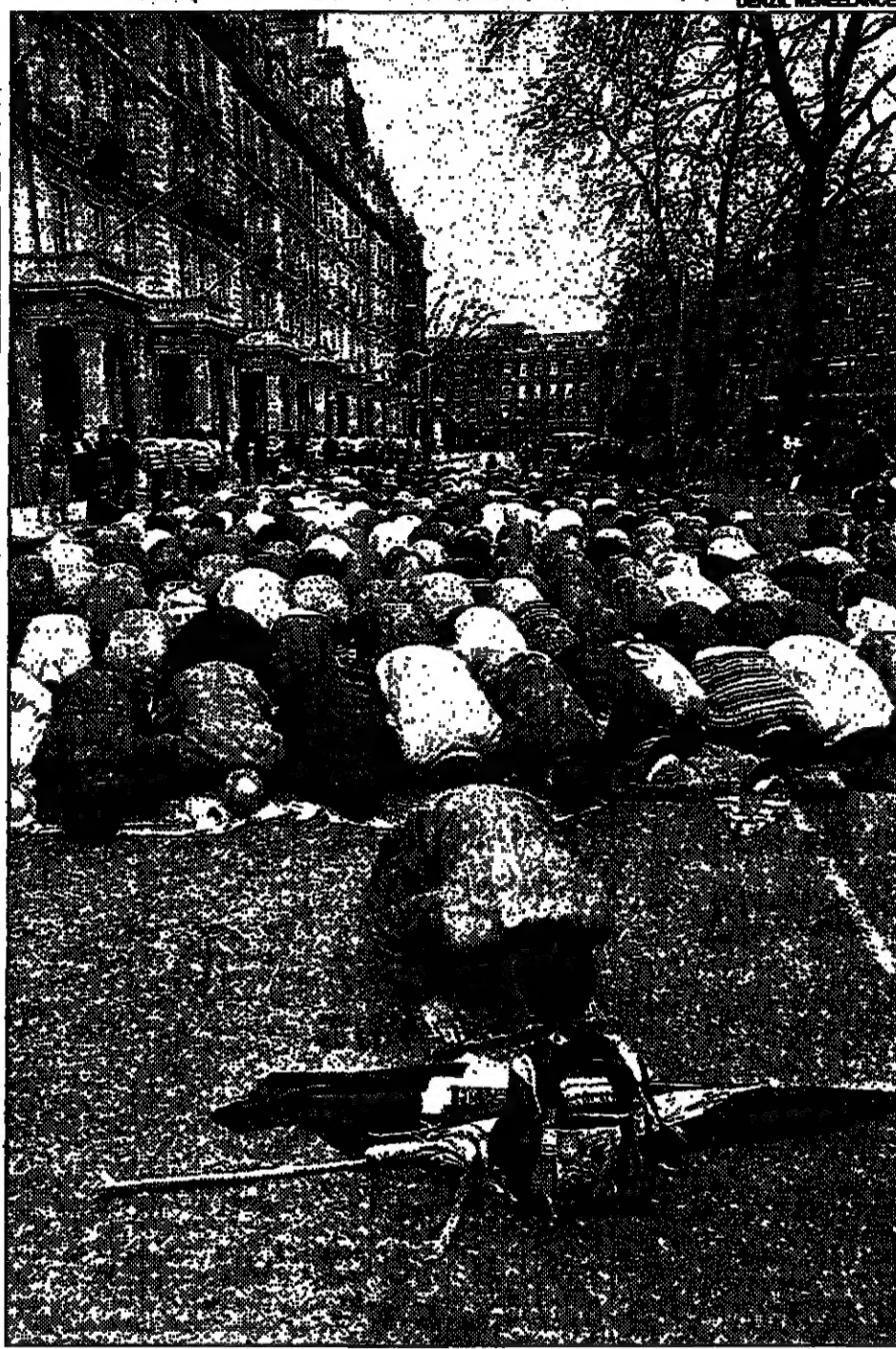
Although the statement made clear Soviet disappointment with the allied rejection of Moscow's peace plan, it was expressed more in sorrow than in anger. Given the efforts Moscow invested in the search for a diplomatic solution and what the Soviet Union stands to lose if it cannot secure a prominent role in subsequent peace talks, the statement might have been far harsher.

The impression created is that Soviet diplomacy is trying hard not to sacrifice the improvements in East-West relations that have been achieved in the past five years. The rejection of the Soviet peace initiative, which was predicted last Thursday, presented Moscow with a clear choice.

Once its role as mediator was over, it had either to line up with Iraq and jeopardise relations with America, or to secure relations with Washington and abandon Iraq to its fate.

Throughout last week, there was clearly pressure on Mr Gorbachev to risk sacrificing relations with the United States for the sake of retaining ties with Iraq.

Late on Thursday a sharp statement by his personal envoy, Yevgeni Primakov, spoke of the damage that would be inflicted on superpower relations if the allies rejected the Soviet peace formula. By Friday, however, Mr Gorbachev appears to have been persuaded that this sort of blackmail would have no effect.



Bowed down: hundreds of Muslims in Grosvenor Gardens, London, yesterday kneeling to pray at the end of a protest march against the Gulf war

## REST OF THE WORLD

### Cheers and tears greet news of war

FROM REUTERS IN LONDON

THE world reacted to the launch of the land offensive yesterday with a mixture of defiance, shock, anger, regret and resignation.

Iraq said there would be no surrender, and President Saddam Hussein exhorted his troops in a radio address to "fight them, fight them, fight them". Baghdad radio said President Bush and the American-led coalition faced disgrace and destruction. In the United States, some Americans cheered as Mr Bush announced the news on national television. Others with relatives in the Gulf expressed shock and fear.

Arab reaction varied considerably. There was anger, sorrow, relief, riots, tears and suppressed jubilation, reflecting the divisions between the 20 Arabic-speaking nations.

Jordan wished Iraq success in its fight and Ibrahim Elzein, the information minister, predicted a "prolonged period of suspicion, tension and bad feeling" in the Middle East. A Spanish television crew was beaten up in Amman and Palestinians advised Western journalists there to keep away from refugee camps where anti-Western feeling was intense. In Yemen, about 100,000 people took to the streets, denouncing President Mubarak of Egypt and President Assad of Syria for sending troops to help the allies.

Sentiment in the Gulf, where small states are fearful of Saddam's ambitions, is overwhelmingly anti-Iraq. Calm confidence was the general mood. Kuwaiti exiles in touch with compatriots in the occupied emirate said those left behind were quietly celebrating. Muhammad Abdullah, Kuwait's United Nations ambassador, said he hoped the people of Kuwait would be able to "feel the taste of freedom once again".

Feelings on the streets of Cairo were mixed. Some students and intellectuals were clearly angry. Riot police fired tear gas at hundreds of stone-throwing students protesting against the war. Many Egyptians, however, are influenced by bitter memories of maltreatment while working as labourers in Iraq.

Predictably, the government-controlled media in Syria blamed Saddam, Damascus's long-time enemy. "The Iraqi leadership had a chance to prevent war by withdrawing from Kuwait in response to Arab and international efforts but it did not," the *Tishreen* newspaper said.

Neutral China expressed "deep regret", calling it "the war that the world's people were loath to see". Cuba's UN ambassador called President Bush's televised address "hypocrisy and nonsense". The Pope, who supported the

Soviet peace efforts, said in his weekly address: "Never as in these hours has war appeared like the seed of death. Never as in these days has man been called on to make reason prevail over passions."

Japan said it fully supported the aims of the assault, adding that Iraq had provoked the action by its stubbornness. "It is a battle to restore justice," said Misoji Sakamoto, the chief cabinet secretary.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, said the coalition forces had no choice but to launch a ground offensive. "The world community could not and should not tolerate Saddam Hussein any longer playing for time and delaying the long-overdue withdrawal from Kuwait."

In Luxembourg, the European Community said it hoped Kuwait could be freed rapidly "and with a minimum loss in human lives on both sides". Sweden said it was deeply disappointed by the failure of diplomatic efforts and The Netherlands called the ground war "sad and tragic".

### Yemenis stone allied embassies

Sana'a — Thousands of Yemenis threw stones at embassies belonging to members of the American-led anti-Iraq coalition yesterday in protest at the ground offensive to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait, witnesses said.

A shot rang out near the British ambassador's residence in the centre of the capital as about 100,000 people took to the streets shouting support for President Saddam Hussein and denouncing Arab states aligned with the coalition. The public and private sectors observed a one-hour protest strike. Some demonstrators carried placards denouncing President Assad of Syria, who sent troops to Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Security forces began reinforcing guards at foreign embassies, setting up checkpoints at crossroads leading to the area. (Reuters)

### Cost hits Jordan

Amman — The confrontation occurring in the Gulf has so far cost Jordan at least \$8 billion (£4.1 billion), double the value of its domestic economic output in one year, Moudar Badran, the prime minister, said. The seven-month conflict had affected every aspect of the desert kingdom's economy, he said, adding that Jordan's "steadfastness in the face of adversity" was a miracle. (Reuters)

### Reporting worry

London — Tom King, the defence secretary, has expressed anxiety about the way broadcasters have reported the allied ground offensive to liberate Kuwait. Careless broadcasts could put at risk the lives of British and other allied forces, he said on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. He refused to speculate on how long the ground offensive was likely to last. (Diary, page 14)

### Clash in Cairo

Cairo — Riot police sealed off the streets around the university here and fired tear gas at

## UNITED NATIONS

### Security council abandons session

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

FOR almost the first time since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, the United States and Cuba found themselves at the weekend on the same side in the United Nations security council. At an unusually short late-night meeting after the start of the allied ground offensive, the two countries' ambassadors agreed that there was nothing the council could usefully do.

Ricardo Alarcon, whose speeches generally follow the Cuban mode of rhetoric, said sardonically — and, for once, briefly — that he saw no purpose in the council meeting and suggested the ambassadors went home. "I can think of a thousand better things to do on a Saturday night than to sit around listening to hypocrisy and nonsense," he told reporters.

For quite contrary reasons, Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador, also proposed that the council adjourn *sine die*. After hearing that the Soviet Union was not pushing

its peace plans, he said: "There are no further suggestions at this point on what to do to implement the resolutions of the security council."

It took the 15-nation council, which often meets fruitlessly for hours, only 20 minutes to decide that, with the ground war under way, Cuba and the United States were right, and it adjourned indefinitely. It did not become, as one diplomat had feared, "the mother of all meetings". Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the secretary-general, was conspicuous by his absence.

There was some rancour, however, when Abdalla al-Ashmal, the Yemeni ambassador and the only Arab on the council, made an emotional attack on its role in the Gulf and stormed out to address the press. "This is a clear failure for the security council," he said. "It is an indication that the 'new world order' will just use the United Nations as a cover."

## IRAN

### Rafsanjani regrets failure of diplomacy

FROM REUTERS IN NICOSIA

IRAN criticised the allies yesterday for launching the land offensive against Iraq, but implicitly blamed Baghdad for refusing to withdraw from Kuwait in time.

President Rafsanjani said Iran and the Soviet Union had been on the verge of obtaining an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal. "But unfortunately it has become evident that America and its allies are pursuing wider aims than Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait," he told Alois Mock, the visiting Austrian foreign minister.

The president, who has orchestrated Iran's policy of neutrality, said Iraq's delay in responding to peace overtures encouraged the attack. "At the outset we made every effort to convince Iraq to leave Kuwait, which unfortunately bore fruit too late," he said on Tehran radio.

A radio commentary said the "Great Satan" — Tehran's term for America — would turn on Iran after it had defeated Iraq and that Iran should strengthen its armed

revolution, one should be sure that the White House leadership will not give up its sinister plans against Iran, especially since the Great Satan is now trying to impose its permanent presence in the region on the pretext of the occupation of Kuwait," the commentary added.

## America calls Baghdad's bluff as trickery continues

By MARC WELER

THE international coalition is authorised to use force, if necessary, to evict the Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The ultimatum issued by President Bush on Friday was not only in accord with this mandate, but it amounted to one last concession to President Saddam Hussein. The coalition gave Iraq a final chance to refuse the presumption that a land war would be "necessary" in order to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Baghdad failed to grasp the significance of that offer, and continued to play a game of trickery which has

enslaved the United Nations in a web of legal arguments which might have paralysed the efforts of the international coalition.

The first play was the initial "unconditional" withdrawal offer, which was laced with a number of unacceptable demands. According to the first version, the UN would have had to commit itself to rescinding all sanctions upon completion of two-thirds of an Iraqi withdrawal. This fell foul of the binding requirement of a full withdrawal — a requirement which can be enforced militarily under resolution 678 and which Mr Aziz had to drop when he met President

bluff. Contrary to expectations, he did not put forward unreasonable conditions for a ceasefire when he announced the ultimatum. All that was left to be settled were the modalities of withdrawal. The UN secretary had arranged for the deployment of an observer team to Kuwait. The differences in the positions of Iraq and the coalition concerning the time frame for the withdrawal and the exchange of prisoners could have been bridged by the security council when it met on Saturday, before the expiry of the ultimatum.

Legally, it appeared difficult to justify the launching of a destructive

Iraq's envoys in Moscow and at the UN were ambiguous about the annulment of the purported annexation of Kuwait, and about the renunciation of territorial claims. Those two points were indisputably part of the UN war aims which had to be fulfilled prior to an acceptance of a ceasefire. But a word from the Iraqi delegate to the UN, uttered five minutes before 5pm on Saturday, might have been sufficient to resolve the issue. But Baghdad insisted on one more unacceptable condition: that after the withdrawal of Iraqi forces the security council resolutions would cease to be in effect.





# War to free Kuwait will be short but fierce, Major says

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister yesterday told families of British forces in the Gulf that the land war to liberate Kuwait would not be long but it might be fierce. The massive encounter would not cease until the Iraqis had been completely driven out of Kuwait, he said.

"There is no doubt in my mind that it is an absolutely justifiable conflict and we will win it," Mr Major said outside his official weekend residence at Chequers. "President Saddam Hussein had left the allies with no alternative. His attitude was arrogant and unrealistic and it must soon dawn even on him that he is going to lose and lose big."

Mr Major, who had known for several days the likely

starting date of the ground offensive, said he was "very sorry it has come to this". Mr Major and President Bush spoke on Saturday afternoon about the offensive. He was informed early yesterday by officials that it had begun.

The prime minister also said yesterday that reports indicated that more than 200 oil wells had been set alight in Kuwait and that Iraq was engaged in the "systematic destruction of Kuwait City". New reports said that hundreds of young men and women had been murdered and others were being rounded up and herded into trucks to be taken to Iraq.

Mr Major also spoke on Saturday with the commander

of the British forces in the Gulf, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere. "He was confident of what was to come. He was well prepared and of course his troops were well prepared," Mr Major said. "He was also well aware of the risks and the dangers which will need to be overcome in the next few days."

Mr Major said he could not, for obvious reasons, disclose or give any indication of how the conflict was going. "The troops are our prime concern," he said.

Asked about his personal feelings, Mr Major said: "I am very sorry it has come to this. I am absolutely convinced that there was no choice and what we are doing is right. If Iraq was to succeed, that would be intolerable." There was an inevitability about what was now happening, he said.

He appreciated the diplomatic efforts which were made in the past few days to avoid the conflict, but they had failed. "They have failed because at no time were the Iraqi leadership prepared to accept the security council resolution in full." He said there was neither time nor reason to delay the land battle any further — no reason because the security council resolutions were not going to be met and no time because of what was happening in Kuwait City.

Mr Major added: "A tremendous amount of effort has gone on over many months by a large number of people to ensure that we didn't come to this particular conflict so I am saddened it has done so, but I must say I am absolutely convinced that there is no choice and it is right."

"If the Iraqis were to get away with what they have sought to do over the last few months, then I think that would be intolerable, not just for Kuwait but for the rest of the world."



Royal audience: wearing a "Freed Kuwait" badge, the Kuwaiti ambassador in London, Ghazi al-Rayes, who confidently predicts that Kuwait City will be free by today, the emirate's independence day, watching the Queen's first Gulf war broadcast to the nation yesterday

## Opposition parties support campaign

NEIL Kinnock yesterday blamed President Saddam Hussein for making the land war inevitable as all-party support for the war strengthened (Philip Webster writes).

Opposition even among MPs who have voiced doubts about the conduct of the war was muted yesterday. Mr Kinnock, who has fought hard to keep his party in line, should find the task easier while the ground battle is under way. He said: "Even in the last few days when the Russians were striving to find an alternative, (Saddam) was using Scuds and burning Kuwait oil assets, and showing his determination not to conform to the United Nations resolutions."

Some prominent figures on the Labour left wing will, however, continue to caution against expansion of the war aims to include the toppling of Saddam. Clare Short, who resigned from the Labour front bench to speak out on

the war, questioned yesterday why the Soviet initiative had not been allowed to unfold.

Tony Benn, the Labour veteran who has spearheaded the anti-war campaign in Britain, said the ground assault had dealt a fatal blow to the United Nations as a force for peace and said it could take a generation or more to heal the bitterness and repair the environmental damage. The MP for Chesterfield said the Soviet peace plan, under which Iraq had agreed to withdraw from Kuwait within three weeks, "gave millions of people hope".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "We have asked our soldiers to risk their lives in the cause of international law and justice. At home, we must give them our full support by showing the same courage and determination to see this through, and by preparing now for the just and lasting peace that must follow this tragic war."

## Queen prays for lasting peace

THE Queen yesterday broadcast her first message to the nation during a time of war. The following is the text of her message, recorded at Buckingham Palace and broadcast on all radio and television channels:

"As a nation we are rightly proud of our armed forces. That pride has been fully justified by their conduct in the Gulf war so far. As they, with our allies, face a fresh and yet sterner challenge, I hope that we can unite in praying that their success will be as swift as it is certain, and that it may be achieved with as small a cost to human life and suffering as possible."

"Then may the true reward of their courage be granted, a just and lasting peace."

The Queen also sent a message to the forces in the Gulf yesterday, expressing her admiration for their efforts. The message, addressed to Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces in the Middle East, read: "The British forces have earned the admiration of all of us here at home. As head of the armed forces, I congratulate those under your command on their conduct throughout the conflict so far. My thoughts and prayers go with each and every one of you for the days ahead."

During the second world war the Queen's parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, each made radio broadcasts to Britain, the empire and the United States.

## War critics call for ceasefire

By RAY CLANCY AND ROBIN YOUNG

ANTI-WAR campaigners yesterday condemned the land war in the Gulf and renewed their pleas for an immediate ceasefire. A candlelight vigil was held in central London last night.

Marjorie Thompson, leader of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said the land attacks had moved the war on to a horrifying new level of carnage, rendered even more deplorable by the British, American and Iraqi refusals to take up the recent possibilities for negotiation. She said: "In the past few days, the US, British and Iraqi governments have all passed up opportunities to achieve a peaceful solution. Instead they have chosen a one-way ticket to the slaughterhouse and given it to the women and men battling and bleeding in the Gulf."

She added: "I fear that what we have seen so far has only been a prelude to the carnage which a land war will inflict, to it, but the logic of going ahead seems to be unsalvageable."

Dr Habgood added that it had become increasingly apparent that a war could not be allowed to drag on indefinitely, not least because of what was happening in Kuwait itself. "The recent reports of massacres and firing of the oilfields gave a great urgency to try to bring it to a speedy end," he said.

The Rt Rev William Westwood, the Bishop of Peterborough, likened President Saddam Hussein to Hitler, describing him as "very wicked and very terrible", a man who had to be stopped. He said it was likely that fewer lives would be lost by pursuing the war than not. "It is dreadful that, as ever, we ask young men to die for us while we chatter away about concepts like a 'just war'. I am saddened, but I think it was inevitable and, as with any

war, we now have to win it as quickly as possible and with as little loss of life as we can manage."

The presidents of the Councils of Churches for Britain and Ireland urged people of all faiths to pray daily for those affected by the conflict and for a just and lasting peace.

Canon Lorys Davis, of Birmingham Cathedral, said that many more people than usual were coming to pray in the cathedral at Hereford, where the SAS is based, the cathedral congregation was more than a third larger than usual. At Gloucester Cathedral, clergy estimated that one fifth of the congregation were newcomers.

The Rt Rev Robert Wilhamson, the Bishop of Bradford, said he was maintaining close links with the Muslim community in the city and believed that good community relations would continue.



Grim resolve: John Major speaking to the press outside Chequers yesterday. Of the land war, he said: "I am absolutely convinced that there was no choice."

## Medical corps geared up for action

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SOLDIERS injured during the first hours of the ground battle will have had to rely on colleagues to apply rudimentary first aid and take them to the nearest regimental aid post. Within minutes they will have been picked up by ambulance and taken to a makeshift field dressing station at the second line.

At this stage the Royal Army Medical Corps will have had only one objective: to save lives. In the days ahead those scorched by explosions or hit by shrapnel will receive emergency resuscitation and essential wound-dressing with splints, pins and bandages.

After a rapid assessment of who needs the most urgent treatment, the injured are taken by field ambulance or helicopter, occasionally by short-takeoff Hercules aircraft, to one of the five field hospitals in the Gulf. Within hours a badly injured soldier can expect to arrive at one of the tented field hospitals on the third line with fully equipped operating theatres and isolation units for those injured by chemical weapons. Life-saving surgery will be carried out within four to six hours of injury.

Each of the 300-bed tented hospitals and the 600-bed hospital in Riyadh, staffed by 5,000 British medical personnel, has separate inflatable sealed operating theatres. These allow doctors to be protected from chemical contamination, unencumbered by bulky protective suits or respirators.

Patients are carried on wood-and-canvas stretchers through resuscitation, pre-op, the operating theatre and post-

op, each in its own sealed chamber. If a missile or chemical attack is imminent or in progress, the wounded will be zipped into protective sacks with their own respirators before being carried back to a bed.

Those injured by chemical weapons will be decontaminated in the Gulf before being evacuated. If doctors decide that any wounded soldier cannot withstand the 12-hour journey to Britain, he will be treated for up to four days in one of the 1,850 field hospital beds in the Gulf.

Doctors at the hospital in Riyadh, built in an unfinished airport terminal, are expecting to treat patients with a wide variety of serious limb, head and trunk injuries and severe burns, some transferred from

the field tents. A large proportion of the hospital is devoted to burns injuries, but it also has sophisticated treatments for the effects of nerve and mustard gas.

The less seriously injured and those in a stable condition will be taken as soon as possible to air bases. From there the medical evacuation squadron will fly them either to Cyprus or, in most cases, to the United Kingdom in VC10s or Tristars.

Doctors and nurses will fly home with the injured and be in constant contact with a medical control centre in Britain about their condition to enable hospitals to clear beds for them.

Most hospitals in the UK are not expecting a heavy influx of critically injured

patients, but they are preparing for post-operative complications and renal problems. In contrast, specialist burns units may be heavily over-taxed with servicemen having serious burns.

Although the first casualties are expected to go to military hospitals, some of these, depleted of staff who have gone to the Gulf, have virtually closed. In others, beds have been taken up by servicemen injured in training. NHS hospitals, which have contingency plans to accept up to 7,500 casualties, have not yet been told to clear beds or cancel operations. The health department said yesterday it awaited instructions from the defence ministry. Hospitals could however expect casualties within 36 hours.

## Home thoughts sent abroad

By KERRY GILL

ABOUT 50 soldiers, RAF aircrew and sailors in the Gulf were due to receive their first newsletter from northern Scotland yesterday as the land war broke out. The paper, produced in Cairnness, contains local news, jokes and personal messages for men and women from the area.

David and Liz Richardson, who have two nephews in the Gulf, are preparing the second issue due for delivery in mid-March. "Everyone is very upset that the land war has started," Mr Richardson said. "We all dreaded that it would happen but we hope they will come back soon safe and well."

From Aberdeen, Allan

Glennie, who served with the Gordon Highlanders during the second world war and who owns a television and record shop, sent 1,000 music tapes by air to the Gulf for the troops. The tapes were collected by regimental personnel for despatch to 32 Field Hospital in Saudi Arabia from where they will be distributed.

"I have served in the desert myself and I know just what they are going through," Mr Glennie said. "To the younger generation, music means an awful lot and they will need what comfort they can get. This is something my wife and I can do to help."

Mr Glennie's action was typical of many communities

throughout Scotland who yesterday remembered the troops. Girls from Gordonstoun school, close to RAF Lossiemouth in north-east Scotland, have sent letters to serving personnel. A squadron of Buccaneers from the base is serving in the Gulf.

Throughout Scotland prayers were read for the troops during morning services. The Strathclyde Gulf Support Group said they had been receiving thousands of donations from firms and organisations anxious to make life more comfortable for people serving in the Gulf. United Bencits yesterday agreed to send a consignment of jaffa cakes to the Gulf.

# HE'LL SUFFER FROM AIDS LONG AFTER THEY'VE FOUND A CURE.



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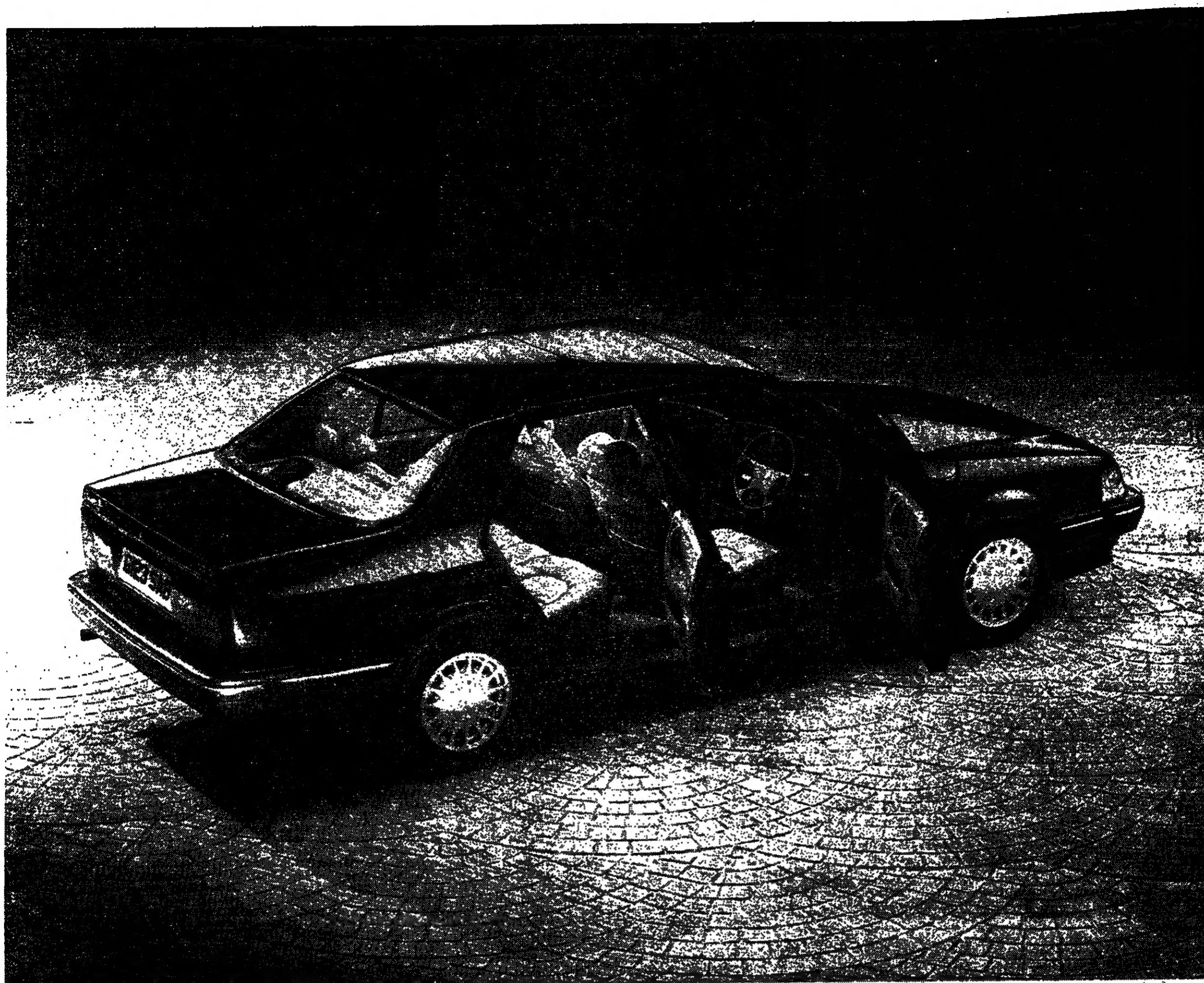
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Take a seat and absorb the quality and space surrounding you in a CDS. The first thing you notice, is the walnut dashboard in front of you. This wood has travelled all the way across the Atlantic. It's Virginian Black, a burr walnut. It's been specially cut, hand-crafted and given eight coats of lacquer, leaving tones of light and dark that enhance the rich feel of the car's interior.

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You begin to realise, that when Saab make a luxury car, they don't sacrifice practicality. Nor will you find any compromise

on space. In the USA the Saab CDS is one of only two European cars officially classified as large. The other is a Rolls-Royce. The Saab, however is designed for drivers, not chauffeurs.

As you drive away, you realise that the luxury features of the CDS are not merely cosmetic. Beneath the leather upholstery, for instance, is a seat designed by orthopaedic experts, with five adjustments,

to help find the most anatomically correct, yet comfortable position.

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## Den mor from mir

PROPOSALS for the reform of the House of Lords are expected to be published in the next few days. The proposals will be put to a select committee of the House of Commons. Lord Cullen, who is a member of the select committee, has said that the proposals will be a 'major step' towards reforming the House of Lords.

## Pioneering surgery f heart bal

DOCTORS in Leeds pioneered a new technique for repairing a congenitally malformed heart, which could improve the lives of many children. The technique, which has been used successfully on adults, involves a 'mini' incision in the chest, allowing the surgeon to see the heart and perform the repair. The technique was used to repair the heart of a five-year-old boy who had a congenitally malformed heart. The surgery was successful and the boy is now recovering well.

## AGENDA The week ahead

Today: Woolf report into Strang and other prison riots; debate on the Home Office; balance of payments; published: Inquiry into the 1989-90 rail crash; Church House, London; Tomorrow: Parliamentary advisory on transport safety; debate on the Home Office; Elizabeth II conference; London; Michael Heaton-Roberts; new nuclear plant; Sheffield, England; No Opera Royal National; and Tate gallery; Future Positive; part of London; Wednesday: Building societies' figures published; but agricultural conference; London; DuPont of the 19th century; the RNAS; a lecture; Thursday: Conference on eastern people with AIDS; Mission Hospital; London; National; development; conference on traffic; London; Friday: National Association of the Authorities; and conference on health; Saturday: Concerns over local government conference; Quarter; health conference; in London.



# Police criticised for inefficient rank structure and pay policies



Davies: police recognising deficiencies in practice

By QUENTIN COWDRY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

**TOP-HEAVINESS** in police rank structure and inflexible approaches towards pay are undermining the efficiency and accountability of policing in Britain, according to an Audit Commission report published today.

The report, which suggests that many chief superintendents' jobs could be scrapped, calls for a national review of rank structure, shift patterns and the basis on which officers are paid. At the force level, organisational structures should be reviewed every five years, it says.

The commission says that many of the 41 provincial forces in England and Wales have become over-managed. Chains of command have become overstretched, obscuring accountability and reducing initiative among constables and junior managers. The same forces tend to distribute

budgets inefficiently and have an inefficient habit of creating specialist squads when faced with new challenges.

Management costs vary widely between forces, with some having only 10 per cent of their manpower based at headquarters and others 20 per cent, the report says. While in some forces the bill for managers' salaries is 36 per cent of that for constables, in others it is almost half.

The commission notes favourably the recent tendency of forces to reduce the number of divisional commanders and to create larger sub-divisional commands. Some chief constables have even attempted to eliminate entirely the divisional tier, switching commanders into areas such as quality control.

But the report says that such moves offer few immediate cost savings, as forces can only shed surplus managers through natural wastage. "Although increasing the

size of sub-units gives opportunities to spread management more economically... it tends to be a zero-sum game for the force as a whole, at least in the short term," the report says. Displaced divisional managers, normally chief superintendents, are generally found headquarters posts.

The report says change is inhibited by rigid national policies which mean that talented officers can only receive higher pay through promotion. "Longer and overlapping [pay] scales should be helpful, as should a system allowing merit-related movement up pay scales," it says.

Once every five years, the report recommends, forces should rigorously examine their organisational structure with the aim of cutting management overheads, matching resources better to demands and increasing the accountability of local commanders. One outcome, it suggests, could be a further

reduction in the number of divisional managers, particularly in the 25 forces with establishments under 2,000.

Structural reviews, the report says, can counteract the tendency of over-management. It adds: "Forces which have conducted them in recent years have streamlined their organisation to produce more self-contained and accountable units to police local communities, with shorter lines of command and more emphasis on performance monitoring as opposed to direct hands-on control."

Financial management practices also differ widely in quality, the commission notes. Few forces allocate funds strictly scientifically, taking account of factors such as local crime and population levels. "Ad hoc subjective judgments made from the centre are often the dominant influence," the report says.

It adds: "The terms of public debate need to move off the

assumption that more police officers and more police expenditure leads to a commensurate increase in the quantity and quality of service outputs."

Another area criticised in the report is the traditional police shift system which, according to the commission, does not allow police to respond efficiently to variations in workload. It believes chief constables should consider introducing more flexible shifts, allowing officers to be on duty for more than eight hours at a time. Alternatively, as is being tried by Surrey police, officers could come on duty and go off duty at different times from their supervisors.

Commenting on the report, Howard Davies, the commission's controller, accepted that chief constables were increasingly recognising the deficiencies of some work practices and structures. "The Association of Chief Police Officers and some individual forces are trying to build a service

culture that reconciles the drive for truly local policing with the demand for sophisticated modern support services. But there are national obstacles in the way which must be tackled," he said.

Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said the report's calls for reviews of force structures were welcome, but he did not believe it had recognised the extent to which the police had already embraced organisational reform. The Inspectorate of Constabulary was investigating the duties of police superintendents and the police negotiating board was discussing new shift and rostering patterns.

The Association of Chief Police Officers also welcomed the report but said great efforts were being made to reduce management overheads. "There is increasing use by forces of objective organisational reviews and there is a general acceptance of the need to minimise administrative systems."

## Demand for more judges from ethnic minorities

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

**PROPOSALS** for the radical reform of the way in which judges are appointed and measures to boost the selection of candidates from the ethnic minorities will be put to the Lord Chancellor at a special meeting this week with Law Society officials.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern will be presented with a draft discussion paper to be published by the society next month for a new system of selecting judges that does not rely, as at present, on word of

mouth and opinion of existing judges, nor insist on proven advocacy skills.

At the same time, he will be given research findings which, at the very least, raise a question mark over the legality of present selection procedures and whether they breach existing race relations law. Proposals are likely to include: abolition of the need for judges to have served in the part-time lower judicial posts; scrapping of the need to be an advocate; a more open system of interview and advertisement; and some kind of judicial appointments commission.

Jennifer Israel, chairman of the society's race relations committee, said: "We want a root and branch overhaul of the system so it does not depend on an official from the Lord Chancellor's department going around the country conducting interviews. A new system will have to take account of the much bigger pool of candidates under the government's legal reforms which open up higher judicial appointments to solicitors." One obstacle to promoting solicitors generally, as well as those from the ethnic minorities, was the need to spend years in part-time judicial posts, she said.

The meeting, the first of its kind, will be attended by Tony Holland, president of the Law Society. He has put judicial appointments at the top of his agenda and, last autumn, attacked the present system for producing judges who are "male, monochrome and middle-aged" stereotypes.

He said: "This meeting comes about because we have been very unhappy with the way the present system works. I happen to believe that in three years' time there will be a radically different picture. I don't believe this system can be defended indefinitely."

Jonathan Goldsmith, secretary of the race relations committee, said: "We have been in discussion with officials for some time and are not happy with the rate of appointment." Ethnic minority judges total one out of 434 circuit judges, three out of 703 recorders and two out of 484 assistant recorders.

The total number of women judges is not much better: one law justice of appeal, two high court judges, 19 circuit judges, 42 recorders and 26 assistant recorders. "We want to see candidates appointed younger. That will benefit both women and ethnic minority candidates, who tend to be at the younger end of the profession. It would enable them to be more fairly represented," Mr Goldsmith said.

## Pioneering surgery for heart baby

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

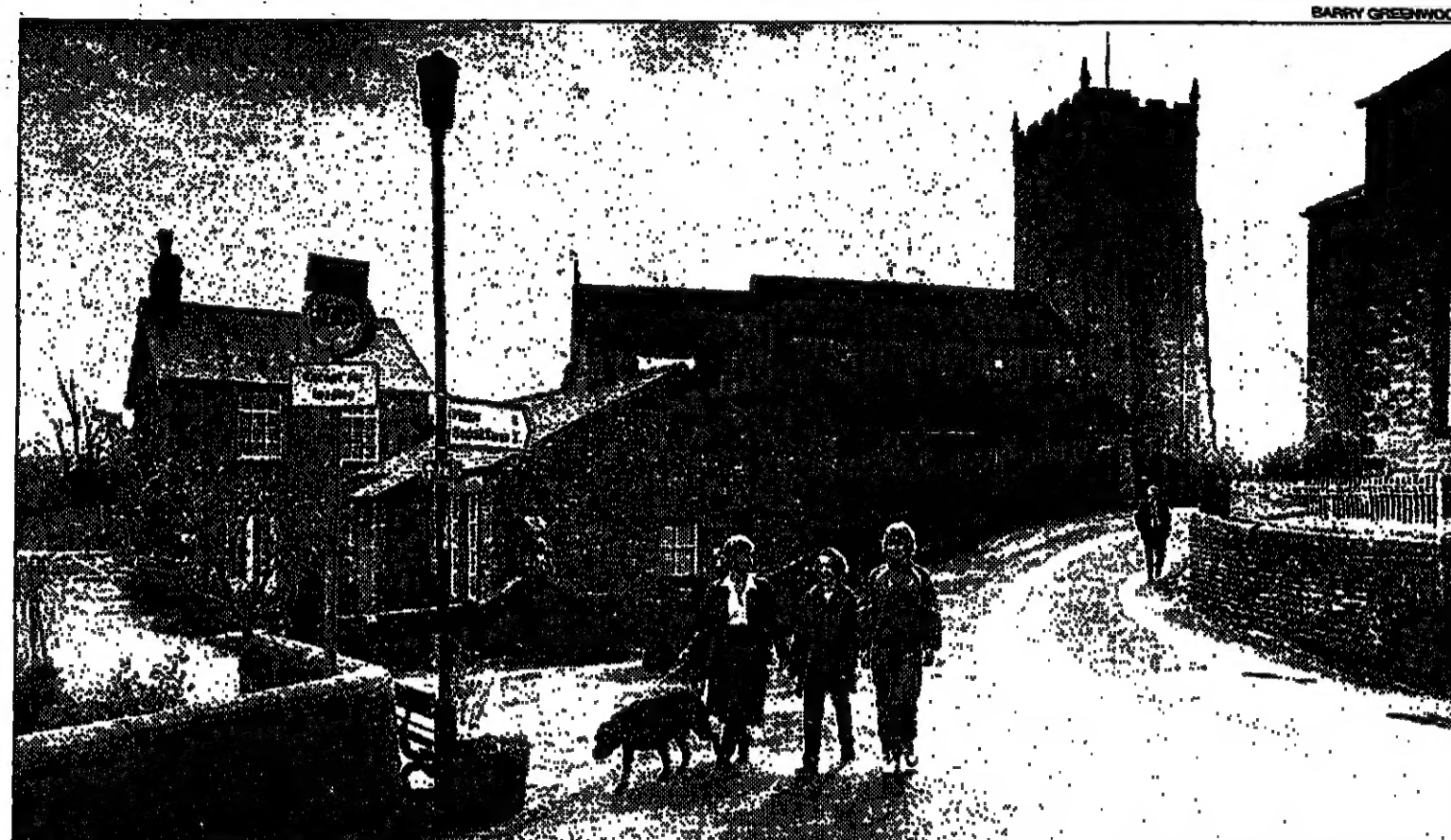
**DOCTORS** in Leeds have pioneered a new technique to treat heart complications in new-born babies which, they say, could replace major heart surgery in young infants.

The technique, which has been used successfully on adults, involves inserting a minute metal cage into an artery, inflating it with a balloon and leaving it to prop open the artery to allow a normal blood flow.

Last week, John Gibb, a paediatric cardiologist and his research team at Killingbeck hospital, Leeds, tried to apply the technique to a five-week-old boy born with a severe heart problem. Conventional techniques had failed.

On Tuesday, a metal cage the thickness of a needle was inserted into the baby's artery and a balloon inflated to stretch it. A second cage was inserted on Friday.

Yesterday, however, the baby was in a critical condition and the operation appeared to have been only partially successful.



Calm before the contest: villagers in Waddington, Lancashire, where candidates in the Ribble Valley by-election are trying to win their votes

## Heseltine cavalry moves to Ribble front

**REPORTERS** huddle against the rain, schoolgirls giggle in anticipation and passers-by stop and gaze. The front door opens and Michael Heseltine steps out to address the cameras.

As he pauses in the doorway, minds turn to other pavement press conferences. But this is not Mr Heseltine's elegant Belgrave home and the Tory leadership contest belongs to another age.

The environment secretary is in what Nigel Evans, the Conservative candidate, calls a "poll tax alley" and the wind tugging at the lapels of Mr Heseltine's suit is whipping down off the snow-capped Lancashire fens.

Inside No 4 Chester Avenue, Clitheroe, Leo and Alice Wells have just been given the good news by Mr Heseltine: his community charge reduction scheme should ensure that their combined bill will fall by about £190 from April. Nonetheless, their charge of about £420 will still be nearly £200 more than the last rates bill on their terraced house. As a

**Political warfare in the by-election has a distracted air as real war rages in the Gulf, Nicholas Wood reports**

former Tory mayor of Clitheroe, the main town in the Ribble Valley constituency, Mr Wells, aged 70, is glad of the arrival of the Heseltine cavalry. Mr Evans, aged 33, is even more relieved.

David Waddington's elevation to the Lords means the Welsh shopkeeper will be defending a majority of nearly 20,000 in the by-election on March 7. It ought to be a formality in this middle class fiefdom of low unemployment and nearly 80 per cent owner occupation. After the disasters of mid-Staffordshire and Eastbourne, however, where five-figure Tory majorities vanished, Mr Evans can take nothing for granted.

The main hurdle barring his way to tenure of the tenth safest Tory seat in the country is the big increase in local taxes imposed by the aboli-

tion of the rates in a predominantly rural constituency with thousands of low-rated properties. Jeanette Blackburn, aged 47, a life-long Tory voter from Clitheroe, is a case in point.

The levy on her three-member household has risen from £250 under the rates to more than £1,000 under the poll tax, and she says the tax has cost the Tories her vote.

At the town's Low Moor social club that night, her protests are music to the ears of Josie Farrington, aged 50, the Labour county councillor who is bidding for the biggest by-election upset of recent times.

As Mrs Farrington skirts the snooker tables with her ready promise of a return to "fair rates", though, Ms Blackburn's vote is not yet in her pocket. Typical of many Lancastrians in this remote and insular part of the world,

she is still sizing up the alternatives. The Tories are pulling out all the stops in a by-election that will have a bearing on the timing of the next election. Mr Evans and his team of Central Office advisers are confronting the poll tax head on and the candidate never leaves home without a clutch of leaflets explaining how the Heseltine discount scheme will cut up to £488 from bills for a couple.

Of course, no election is fought on a single issue. Back in the centre of this market town, Mrs Farrington and Mike Carr, aged 45, a schoolmaster flying the Liberal Democrat banner, have tried to widen the assault. They have concentrated on hospital closures and the threat to village schools.

One candidate has pulled out. On Saturday afternoon, after an eleven-hour reappraisal of standing as an independent Conservative in protest at the poll tax, Richard Franklin announced his withdrawal from the by-election contest and pledged

his full support to Mr Carr, saying his stand against the poll tax was identical to that of the Liberal Democrats.

Yet, despite all their efforts, a curious lassitude pervades the morning press conferences. With British troops now fighting in the Gulf, it is hard for anyone to wax too indignant on behalf of angry nurses or anxious mothers. So the campaign has acquired a distracted air as the pop guns of domestic political trench warfare are drowned out by the sound of the real thing in the Gulf.

No one, if you discount a couple of senior Tories, has been bold enough to play the Gulf card. Mr Evans is determined to avoid another Eastbourne, the by-election caused by the death of Ian Gow at the hands of the IRA.

Not for him the suggestion that a vote for another party in a time of trial is in some way unpatriotic.

General election: D C Waddington (Con) 30,136; M Carr (SDP) 10,608; G J Pope (Lab) 8,781. Con maj 19,528.

## Student numbers increase by 10%

The number of new university students has shown its biggest rise in 25 years and the proportion of first class degrees has also reached a new level, according to university statistics (John O'Leary writes).

The 10 per cent rise in enrolments last year was double that of a year earlier. Only in medicine, dentistry, agriculture and engineering was recruitment below target. Universities also awarded 8 per cent more first class degrees.

Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chief executive of the Universities Funding Council, said the expansion showed a vigorous response to a buoyant demand for higher education. Deputy head teachers may hardly earn any more than the best classroom teachers when this year's pay rise is fully implemented, the National Association of Head Teachers says in a submission to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, today.

Leading article, page 15  
Education, pages 28, 29

## Hoax charge

An unemployed man accused of planting a fake bomb in Euston station on Friday was remanded in custody for reports by Clerkenwell magistrates at the weekend. Roger Cully, aged 44, of no fixed address, is said to have left a device — a bottle, electrical timer and wires wrapped in masking tape — inside a carrier bag.

## Kasparov loses

Gary Kasparov, the world chess champion, shocked his fans by losing in decisive fashion to the young Soviet grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk in the first round of the international chess tournament in Linares, Spain, billed as the strongest chess tournament ever held. Kasparov resigned on the 38th move.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly prize draw are: £100,000, bond 172K 795946 (winner lives London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham); £50,000, 18BZ 600295 (Lancashire); £25,000, 32BN 931855 (Swansea).

## Labour pledges pension rise

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Meacher: no unfair gains for private schemes

**THE** Labour leadership is drawing up proposals for big improvements to state pensions provision combined with the abolition of the £600 million a year special incentives to people to join private schemes.

People will be allowed to pay a larger share of their income into the state earnings related scheme (Serps) to earn higher benefits on retirement. But the incentives given to workers opting out of Serps and company occupational schemes to take up personal

pension plans will be speedily ended by Labour.

As well as reversing key changes made to the original Serps scheme by the present government, Labour proposes to expand it to allow people to pay in a larger proportion of their income to earn a higher pension or a lump sum on retirement. People in Serps would be able to make additional voluntary contributions in the way that people in occupational schemes do.

Labour intends to introduce a new national pensions plan which will base the pension on the individual's best 20 years of earnings, rather than on a lifetime's earnings as at present.

Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, is preparing a detailed statement. His main message will be that Labour is in no way opposed to people taking up private schemes but that those schemes should not be given unfair advantages.

Labour has indicated that it will move to limit the big business funding of the Tories, which it believes gives the present government election machine an unfair advantage, and introduce state funding of political parties (Tim Jones writes).

According to analysts, the Conservatives will at the next election have more than £42 million with which to fight their case against the £6 million available to Labour.

## Doctors order many more tests

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

**THE** number of diagnostic tests requested by GPs has increased by more than 300 per cent in the past 20 years, according to a report published today by the Office of Health Economics. The report says the increase reflects technological advances and rising demands from patients for tests such as cervical cytology and cholesterol levels.

The document also shows widespread variations in the use of tests. A recent study in Salisbury, Wiltshire, found a 12-fold variation in tests for cholesterol and a four-fold variation in overall pathology services. One practice ordered more than 100 tests in a year for a condition when only one,

new case could have been expected. There was little difference in the proportion of positive test results whether GPs were high or low referrers. The new GP contract is expected to result in further increases in diagnostic tests, with payments closely matched to the number of cervical smears carried out.

The Office of Health Economics recommends that the new family health service authority medical advisers should conduct further research so that yardsticks could be drawn up on when it was appropriate to use diagnostic facilities. "Inappropriate use of diagnostic and hospital

facilities — both underuse and overuse — is not only bad from the patient's point of view but can also be costly for the health service," it says.

The report says that high users could either be experts who realise how much a patient would benefit from hospital treatment or doctors who want a second opinion from a hospital. Many referrals to hospital were only made to assure the patient, rather than because the doctor thought further investigation was needed, the report says.

Factors influencing clinical decisions in general practice (Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DY; £7.50)

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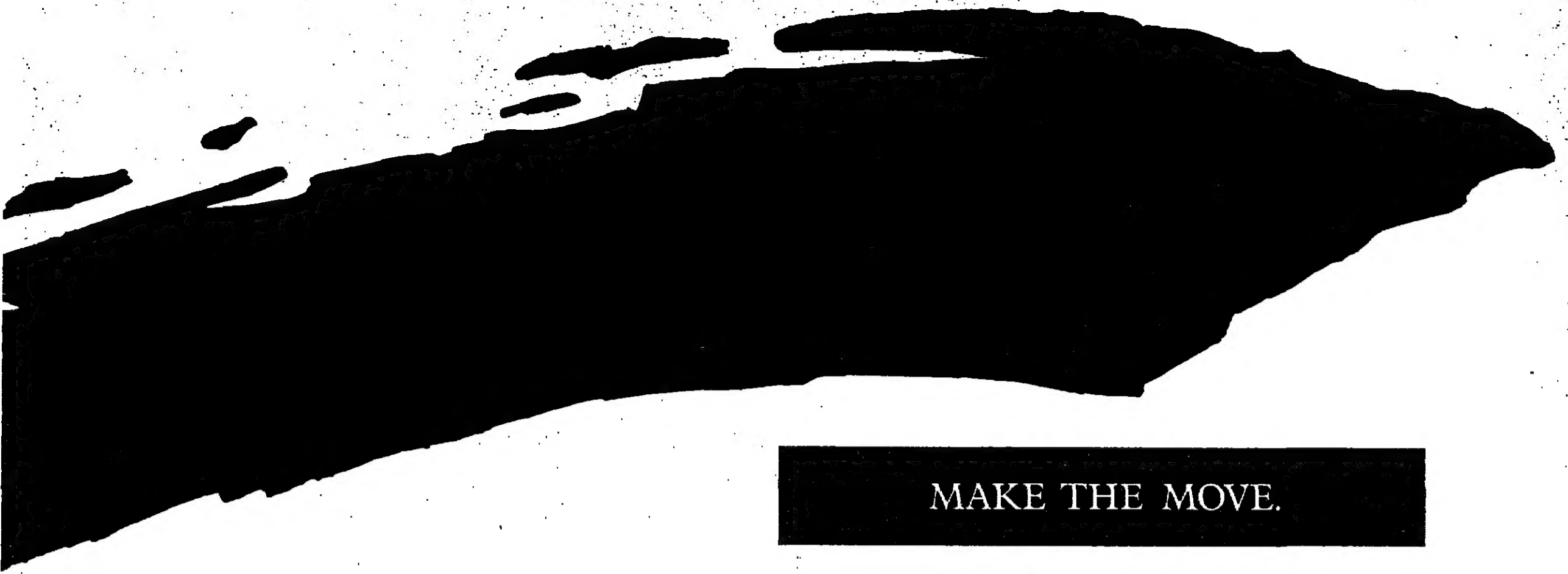
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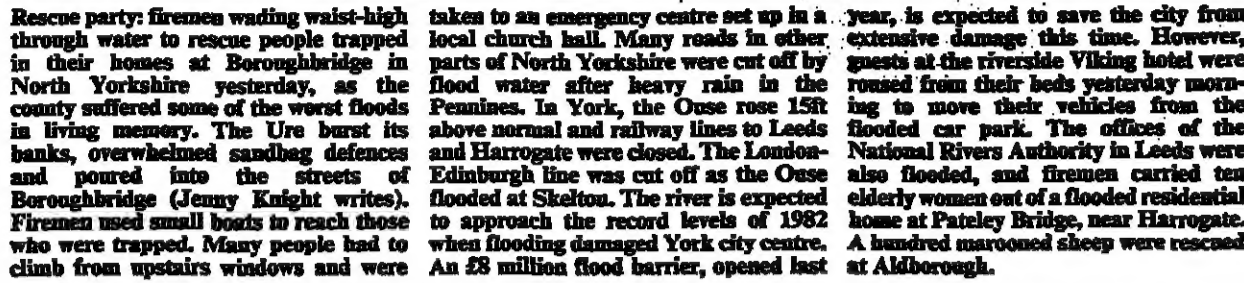


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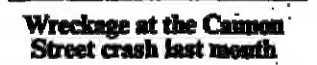
**By ARTHUR LEATHLEY**

The Nimrod aircraft led a widespread rescue mission after a mayday from the crippled Singa Saga was picked up by another vessel in the Atlantic, the Prosperus. Other ships in the area headed towards the Liberian-registered vessel, which was at the extreme limit of her transmission power for Land's End to pick up further messages. After four hours, the captain radioed that he no longer needed assistance and would head for a continental European port to repair the vessel.



## THE public enquiry into last

The enquiry, which will include an examination of whether the age of the rolling stock and the high number of passengers on board the train played a role in the number and severity of injuries sustained by passengers, and is expected to last five days. Mr Cooksey's report is expected in a few months.



All three men will now go forward to the national final, which will be held at the Langham hotel, London, on July 7.

**By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT**

The company says that Treasury forecasts that inflation will have fallen to 5.5 per cent by the fourth quarter still look over-optimistic to union negotiators "given that forecasts in recent years have consistently underestimated the rate of inflation leading some review bodies, for example, to make lower awards

The report says that because of differences in pay compared to the private sector, many public sector organisations have had great difficulties in filling jobs; organisations which have failed to make use of eased pressures during the present recession may face greater competition than ever for staff.

A husband and wife died when an explosion and fire wrecked their home at Thatcham, near Newbury, Berkshire, early yesterday. Police are treating the case as suspicious. Robert Smith was found dead in the house. His wife, Fainline, was killed in the garden. She died later in hospital.

● Adrian Adjei, aged five, died in a fire in a flat at Canning Town, east London, early yesterday. Neighbours who heard screams called the police instead of the fire service believing that a fight was taking place. A policeman was treated for smoke inhalation after trying to save the child.

About 12 members of the IRA are believed to have launched a mortar bomb and machine-gun attack on an army post near Silverbridge, Co Armagh, early yesterday. A 15-minute gun battle ensued but there were no injuries.

Two teenagers aged 18 and 16 will appear before Leeds magistrates today charged in connection with a crash that killed two people last Thursday during a police chase.

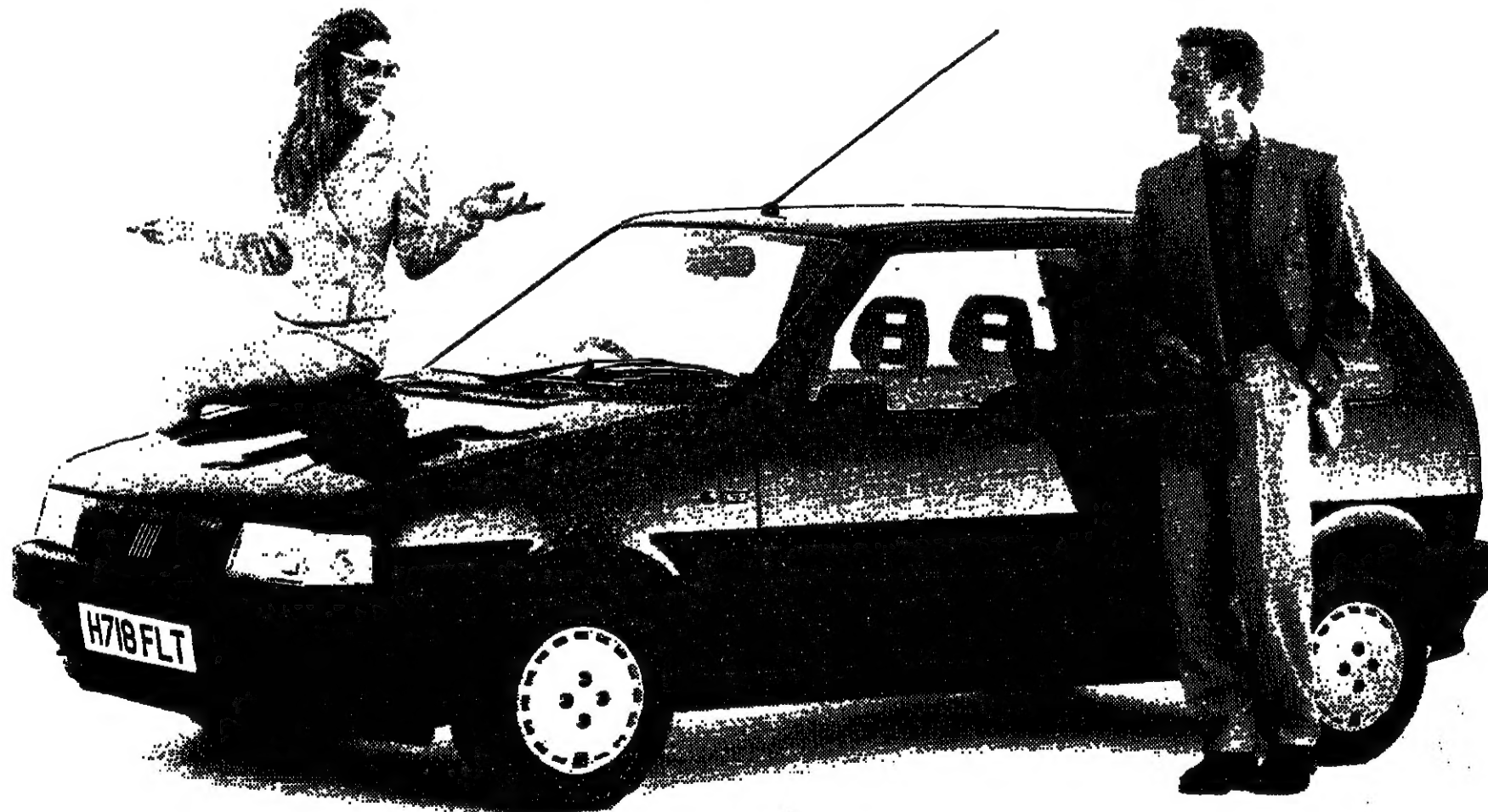
Dr Jane Goodall is to be awarded this year's Edinburgh medal for her pioneering field research on chimpanzees.

Two mares in foal, each valued at £100,000, were killed on Saturday after a crash with a car on the Marlow bypass in Buckinghamshire, police said. They had escaped from a near by stud farm. The driver had minor injuries.

**More than 550 people have applied for a £20,000-a-year job as a manager at the £700 million Toyota car factory being built near Derby.**

Leo Hudson, a fire eater, lost his stage costumes when his car caught fire on the M1 as he drove home to Ilkerton, Derbyshire.

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# East Europeans administer last rites to Warsaw Pact

THE death warrant will be signed this week on two of the world's most unpopular organisations: the Warsaw Pact and the East European trading bloc, known as Comecon.

Today foreign and defence ministers will decide how best to dissolve the military structures of the pact. Suspicious to the last, the East European allies will press the Soviet Union to keep to an earlier commitment to abolish by next year the political format of the pact. And, in the corridors of the Duna hotel, in Budapest, away from the Soviet leaders, the East Europeans will try to puzzle out a new security concept for the region, leaning towards Nato but falling short of membership.

The last rites for Comecon will be read later in the week when prime ministers of the nine member states — the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria,

Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia — meet in Budapest. Their plan is to set up a small consultative body, to be called the Organisation for International Economic Co-operation (OIEC).

Like the Warsaw Pact, Comecon has been robbed of meaning by the democratic changes in Europe. The five non-Soviet East European states have abolished central planning in word, if not in deed. Certainly the Soviet Union is no longer capable of enforcing a model of economic management. Trade by barter and clearing accounts has given way to deals in dollars.

Judged on organisational terms, Comecon was a more resounding failure than the Warsaw Pact. It failed to make internationally co-ordinated central planning work. The 1962 scheme to divide labour in the bloc collapsed when Romania refused to provide the agricultur-

Democratic change has robbed Soviet bloc defence and trading alliances of all meaning, but they must be disposed of tactfully, Roger Boyes, in Warsaw, writes

al underpinning for the industrial growth of other members. Comecon failed to integrate Eastern and Central Europe, and it failed to modernise the more backward economies. Finally, it failed to reform itself.

Instead, it became a creaking vehicle whereby the Soviet Union supplied cheap oil and gas to its allies and received, in turn, low-quality engineering goods and heaps of Bulgarian strawberries. The normal imperial structure whereby the centre off-loads its poorest stock on the colonies and exploits their raw materials was absurdly reversed.

By contrast, the Warsaw Pact

at least succeeded in strengthening the national defence forces of the East European allies. An East European state such as Poland is now in a much better position to defend its independence than it was before the second world war.

The costs of the Warsaw Pact are well known: the monopolising of arms supply by the Soviet Union, which will continue long after the pact is buried, the use of pact forces to subdue rebellions or reform in member states, the intrusion of Soviet generals in domestic politics of Eastern Europe. But the pact was doomed from the moment the East German leadership began to lose

control. The two departing alliances should not be assessed on organisational criteria. They were instruments of Soviet hegemony, and when the hegemony crumbled, the instruments became redundant. But the manner in which these alliances are scrapped is of prime importance.

The Comecon replacement has three main functions: to make this particular retreat from empire more palatable for hardliners in Moscow; to disentangle the remaining economic ties, such as the two chief Comecon banks; and to supervise some Comecon contracts, clinched before the 1989 revolutions, which are still binding.

The Poles and Czechoslovaks in particular are determined to make the new organisation as open as possible and are thinking of inviting Germany or other West Europeans to take part. For them, membership of the OIEC

will tide them over until they are ready to join the European Community.

Of the OIEC's various tasks, the most important is reassurance. The Soviet proposals for running down the Warsaw Pact show quite clearly that there is deep unease in the high command. Moscow wants job guarantees for all officers and men employed in the pact headquarters. It wants the allies to renounce all financial claims on the pact, and it wants a political commitment to the dissolution of Nato. This is an agenda dictated by Soviet generals and will be largely ignored. But the rejection should be tactful and not arrogant.

Perhaps the best sense of Soviet military thinking comes in a closed-session speech by the Soviet commander of troops in Poland, Colonel-General Viktor Dubynin. The speech was delivered in January during bilateral

negotiations on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland. He said: "I am ashamed at the humiliating conditions of withdrawal offered by the Polish side. Ashamed for my officers and soldiers, for the older generation of Soviet people who liberated Poland, ashamed above all on behalf of those who died for Poland's liberation — who has given you the right to dictate such humiliating conditions, to torment the great country of the Soviet Union. I demand that the Polish side stop bullying the representatives of the Soviet Union."

But the East Europeans are beginning to realise that they must listen to the undertones, to the message beneath the bluster. The ending of the alliances this week may seem a mere formality, but there are dangers too: unhappy generals make for unhappy politics.

## Alia treads stalinist line as Albanian unrest grows

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

THERE was a further outbreak of violence in Albania yesterday when troops and police fired at anti-communist demonstrators in the capital, Tirana.

After tentative reforms aimed at heading off popular discontent, President Alia has thrown in his hand with stalinist conservatives opposed to any dismantling of the Enver Hoxha cult. Hoxha was the former dictator who led the country from independence in 1944 until his death in 1985. Demonstrators tore down his statue last week and

set fire to copies of his books outside a city bookshop.

The president, addressing the nation on television for the second time in 48 hours, urged the communists and all Albanian patriots to "isolate the vandals and terrorists" and not to let Albania become a victim of "sinister forces". He defended Hoxha who, he said, "personifies the history of the Albanian people".

Officially controlled state media, which has been largely uncritical about the removal of the statue, now denounces the demolition as "anarchic". Riot police who fraternised with demonstrators last week are now obeying instructions to restore order. On Saturday, they fired at about a thousand protesters who were approaching Skanderbeg Square.

Yesterday black funeral posters were put up near the scene of the shooting, displaying photographs of young men and women who "died suddenly on Saturday afternoon". The crowds that gathered around the notices vowed revenge and a blood feud.

The president, who is deeply implicated in the oppression of the past four decades, is losing his nerve. He is afraid that if he permits the Hoxha cult to be removed entirely it would provoke questions about his own shadowy role in the political murders and trials of the last decade. By siding with the conservatives, however, he has only reinforced the hand of extremists on both sides.

One senior politician said yesterday: "If Alia causes more blood to be spilled in



Alia: losing his nerve as support for Hoxha falls

Albania, I personally will kill him." The Democratic party, which is pledged to "reconciliation, not revenge", denounced the shootings as conservative provocation.

Civilian hospitals said yesterday that at least eight people were killed on Saturday, and ten people died in fighting at the city's military academy on Friday night.

Thousands of Albanians gathered in Shkoder on Saturday to hear Gramos Pashko, the leader of the Democrats. There were cheers when Mr Pashko said the Albanian leader was out of touch with his people's wishes and Britain should suspend talks aimed at restoring diplomatic links until the country becomes democratic. Few people in Tirana now expect elections to take place as planned at the end of March.

## Union snubs Walesa

Warsaw — Solidarity elected Marian Krzaklewski, a Silesian worker, as its new chairman (writes Roger Boyes). His election shifts the focus of the union from the Gdansk shipyards to the troubled coalmines and steelworks in southern Poland. The choice, during the union's third congress at the weekend, represented a snub to President Walesa, the outgoing chairman. He had anointed Bogdan Borusiewicz of 17 die in fire

Moscow — A fire in a Lenin-grad hotel killed 17 people, including nine firemen, on Saturday. The blaze, blamed on a faulty television set, took firemen more than five hours to control. Guests included foreigners, among them French actress Marina Vlady, but the nationalities of the dead are not yet known. (AFP)

## Judge killed

Hyderabad — A kidnapped judge was shot and killed in southern Pakistan during a battle between his abductors and police trying to rescue him. The police were pursuing the kidnappers, who had seized the judge as he was being driven to work in Shaddapur, 50 miles north of here. (Reuters)

## Debt plea to EC

Nairobi — Ministers from 68 African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries will press the European Community to write off millions of dollars of crippling debt at a meeting in Kampala today. "Third World survival depends on that," said Kafumbe Mukasa, the Ugandan planning minister. (Reuters)

## Seal pups die

Perth — Seven rare New Zealand seal pups, coated with fuel oil from a cargo ship that sank off Western Australia last week, have died. The Western Australian Department of Conservation and Land Management said they were among 200 seals that workers had tried to rescue. (AFP)

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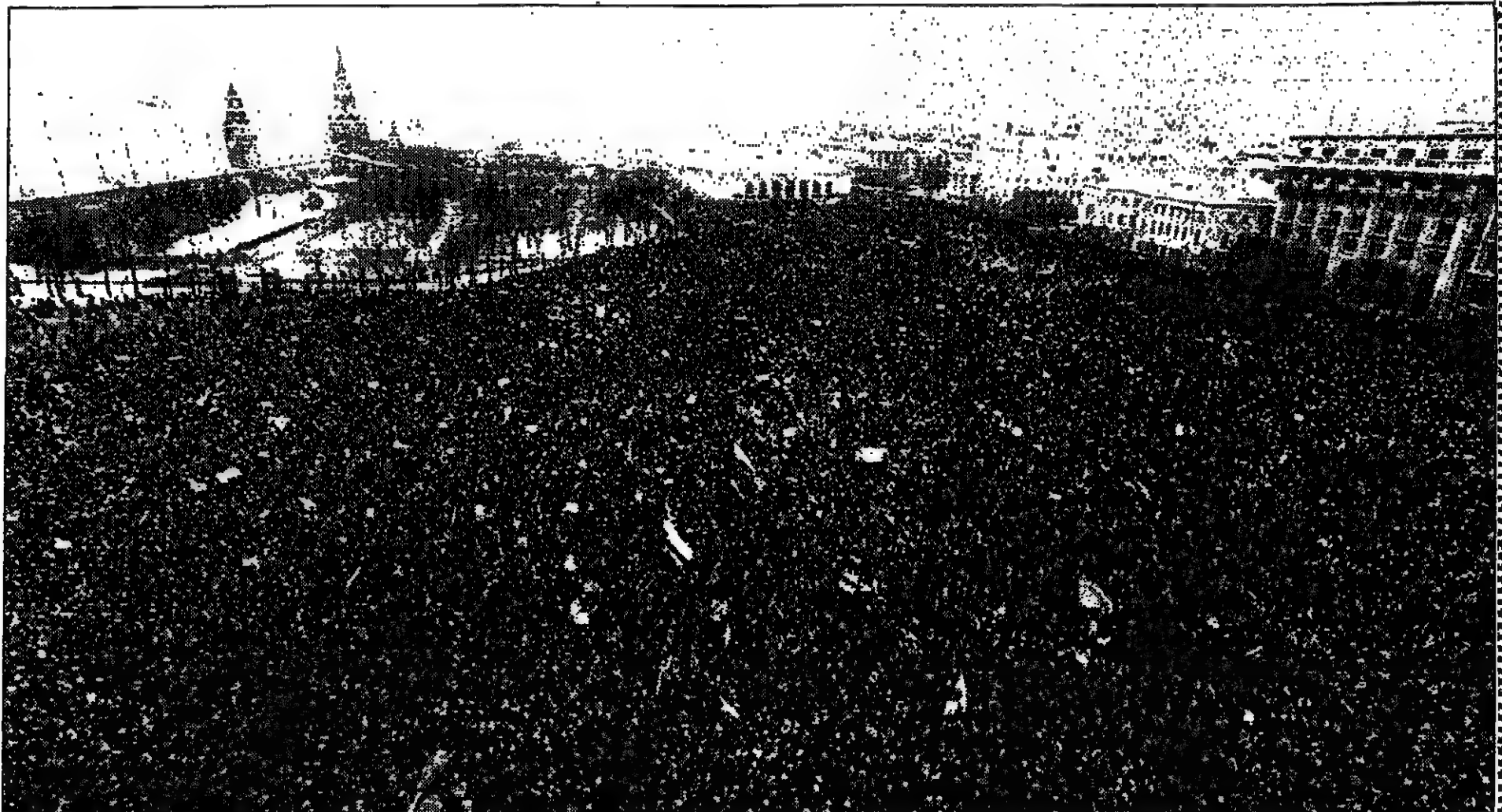
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People's choice: more than 150,000 demonstrators filling Manezh square, outside the Kremlin in Moscow, yesterday in support of Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation. The protesters — at a rally whose general mood was festive — chanted anti-government slogans and called for President Gorbachev to resign

## Big Moscow rally pledges popular support for Yeltsin

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SUPPORTERS of Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, turned out in force yesterday for a mass demonstration in central Moscow which pledged the people's protection for the Russian president and repeated his call for the resignation of President Gorbachev. The turnout, estimated at 150,000, easily surpassed the numbers at the pro-army demonstration on Saturday and illustrated the problems Mr Gorbachev would face if he ventured to move against Mr Yeltsin.

Whole families made their way to Manezh square beside the Kremlin wall. Chants of "Disgrace, disgrace," "Gorbachev out" and "Yeltsin, Yeltsin" echoed around the square as speakers, mostly radical Russian MPs, condemned what they saw as a Gorbachev-sponsored campaign to discredit their hero.

The crowd represented all ages. Elderly people, some with sticks, hobbled across the ice. Stout women and groups of young people unfurled home-made banners to reveal masterpieces of invective, or the direct message: "Yeltsin yes; Gorbachev no." Many carried the pre-revolutionary Russian tricolour, some with Mr Yeltsin's name emblazoned on the white stripe.

The atmosphere was festive, but purposeful. Many smiled with delight when they turned the corner into the square and saw how many had gathered. It was the third demonstration in as many days and the Democratic Russia group which organised it had feared that protest fatigue would keep its supporters away. The authorities appeared to have been caught off guard by the numbers and a helicopter hovered within sight, a rare spectacle in central Moscow where no air traffic is normally permitted.

The demonstration had been called both to support the embattled Mr Yeltsin and to commemorate the first anniversary of last year's anti-regime demonstration which had been kept out of central Moscow by riot troops but still attracted nearly 400,000 people.

Yesterday's demonstrators were also determined to show up the previous day's pro-army demonstration for the

stage-managed occasion it was. That demonstration, a supposedly voluntary expression of support for the armed forces and the unity of the Soviet Union on Army Day, attracted barely half the number that turned out yesterday. This was despite orders to army detachments to attend, the drafting in of workers in convoys of buses, and incentives in the form of vodka and food packages. The crowd, apart from uniformed and non-uniformed soldiers, consisted mainly of elderly people.

The previous evening an estimated 50,000 people had gathered in the same square to protest against central control of the media at a rally which rapidly turned into a demonstration of support for Mr Yeltsin. A prime reason for the rekindling of democratic passions is believed to be Mr Yeltsin's television interview last Tuesday in which he condemned central Soviet policies and called on Mr Gorbachev to resign. Nearly a week later, it is clear that the impact of the broadcast was vast.

Letters, page 15

## Thai coup generals back Khmer Rouge in Cambodia

FROM NEIL PAGE IN BANGKOK

THAI generals, who seized power in a bloodless coup at the weekend, say that the Khmer Rouge must be given a share of power in Cambodia after a political settlement.

General Suchinda Kraprayoon, the army chief, said yesterday that Thailand, which had distanced itself from the Khmer Rouge and its non-communist allies, would back a political role for the guerrilla force. "If you want to settle the problem you have to let the Khmer Rouge share power," he said.

The leaders of Saturday's coup also announced that they would amend the constitution and hold elections within six months. "We have no intention of keeping power," said General Suchinda. For the present, the army intends to rule through a 15-man national peacekeeping command of armed services' chiefs, backed by a 19-man civilian advisory team.

Chatchai Choonhavan, the ousted prime minister, had angered the Khmer Rouge and its supporters in Thailand by apparently favouring Phnom Penh in peace talks to end the 12-year-old war in Cambodia. Military chiefs justified Thailand's latest coup, the

first moves by the military, General Suchinda said. Mr Chatchai will be allowed to return home once the situation has settled down. The military is still hunting for two of his controversial aides, Manoon Roopkachorn and Chalerk Yoobamrung, both of whom are said to have fled the capital.

In a gesture of disapproval at the military's overthrow of civilian rule, Washington, Thailand's closest ally, promptly suspended economic and military aid worth \$16 million (£8 million).

Reaction to the coup in Thailand has been mixed, winning praise from civilian and military figures associated with General Chatchai's predecessor as prime minister. "They were similar to worms slowly eating the crops," Prasong Soonsiri, a former national security chief, said of the Chatchai cabinet. "When the vermin are removed, democracy will remain."

But in a last pre-censorship editorial, one newspaper described the coup as "a blemish on our contemporary political history". Ignoring the talk of corruption, it described the coup as the culmination of "a power struggle".



Suchinda: an election within six months

## Alfonso murder bid is foiled

FROM MICHAEL SOLTYZ IN BUENOS AIRES

RAUL Alfonsín, president of Argentina from 1981 to 1989, narrowly escaped an assassination attempt while campaigning for his opposition Radical party in the Paraná delta town of San Nicolás.

A former Border Guard, later identified as Ismael Abdala, is alleged to have stepped out of the 5,000-strong crowd on Saturday night and to have aimed a 32-revolver at the former president, but the weapon jammed. Senior Abdala was seized by Radical activists and security personnel and was late last night still being questioned. His alleged accomplice was also reported held.

Senior Alfonsín was able to complete his speech but later admitted to being "shaken". Political violence has been extremely rare in Argentina over the past decade although endemic in the country's history. There were differing interpretations of Saturday's attack on Senior Alfonsín.

The consensus was that the aim had been to scare rather than to kill him, but there was also conjecture that the attack had been staged by the Radicals themselves to whip up sympathy.

## Zhivkov, not communism, goes on trial

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

THE trial of Todor Zhivkov, aged 79, the former Bulgarian Communist dictator for 35 years, opens today. Mr Zhivkov, who was toppled in a party coup in November 1989, is charged with fraud and embezzlement and faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment.

The authorities will try the former head of state in the same courtroom that was used for the most famous of the stalinist show trials in the 1940s, which consolidated communism in this Balkan country.

Any thought that this trial is to be one of communism itself must be swept aside. To the embarrassment and anger of most Bulgarians, the charges against Mr Zhiv-

kov read like those one might expect against a small-time criminal rather than a former dictator. Prominent in the indictment, for example, is: "The accused gave instructions to sell at low prices 25 Mazdas, 15 Volkswagens, 28 Renaults, Suzukis and Mercedes, thus inflicting damage on the republican budget."

The fact that Mr Zhivkov is being tried for financial misdemeanours only reflects the difficulty faced throughout Eastern Europe of bringing to trial communist politicians who are clearly smart enough to legitimise their rule by introducing their own constitutions and legal systems. In an acknowledgement to political factors, the Zhivkov indictment does note that he

handed out cars and flats, "so as to stimulate obedience in the highest party and state functionaries who would carry out his personal will as the only fount of their material prosperity".

Mr Zhivkov is under house arrest at his granddaughter's luxury villa in Sofia. From here, the sprightly former dictator has protested his innocence and denounced the trial as an attempt to make him a "political scapegoat" for communism. Mr Zhivkov, who has an eye for the theatrical, recently reversed an old Eastern European dissident tactic: he has appealed to Amnesty International for support.

Under Mr Zhivkov, Bulgaria gained the reputation of being the most politically sterile of the East European

satellites. There were few dissidents and they were punished by not being able to find work rather than by imprisonment.

Mr Zhivkov, who is of peasant stock, liked to surround himself with intellectuals and artists and he would often invite them hunting. One was Georgi Markov, the writer, who later defected and was assassinated in London in the "poison umbrella" affair in 1978. In a recent interview, Mr Zhivkov claimed that all he knew about it was what he had "read in the newspapers".

Under his daughter, Ludmilla, culture blossomed in the 1970s. However, after a car accident, Miss Zhivkova turned increasingly to mysticism. She preached the

virtues of vegetarianism and the rebirth of the soul and other ideas which made a mockery of marxist-leninism. This outraged the Russians who many believe were responsible for her mysterious death in 1981 at the age of 39.

After the death of his "princess" and heir, Mr Zhivkov became ever more suspicious of those who surrounded him. His son, an alcoholic, was a great disappointment, and after the rise of Mr Gorbachev, the Bulgarian leader became an increasingly lonely figure.

According to one present-day politician, who worked with him and asked to remain anonymous: "Zhivkov's obsession was no longer with power as such, but rather his place in history."



The photograph you can see here is of a typical street that could be in any number of places around Britain.

And being typical, it isn't hard to imagine the size of the problem facing blind people day in, day out, on almost every street.

Without the benefit of sight, even a fully trained Marine would struggle to complete the course unscathed.

## To you it's just a street.

All we ask is before putting bin bags on the pavement or parking your car on the kerb, stop to think of the damage they might do.

The third obstacle is one we all see. All, that is, apart from blind people.

The abandoned shopping trolley. They manage to turn up in the most unexpected places.

As far as we're concerned, the only place you should expect to find them is in a supermarket, where they are well out of harm's way.

It is all too easy for us who are sighted to overlook these hazards blind people encounter every day.

Try walking past roadworks with

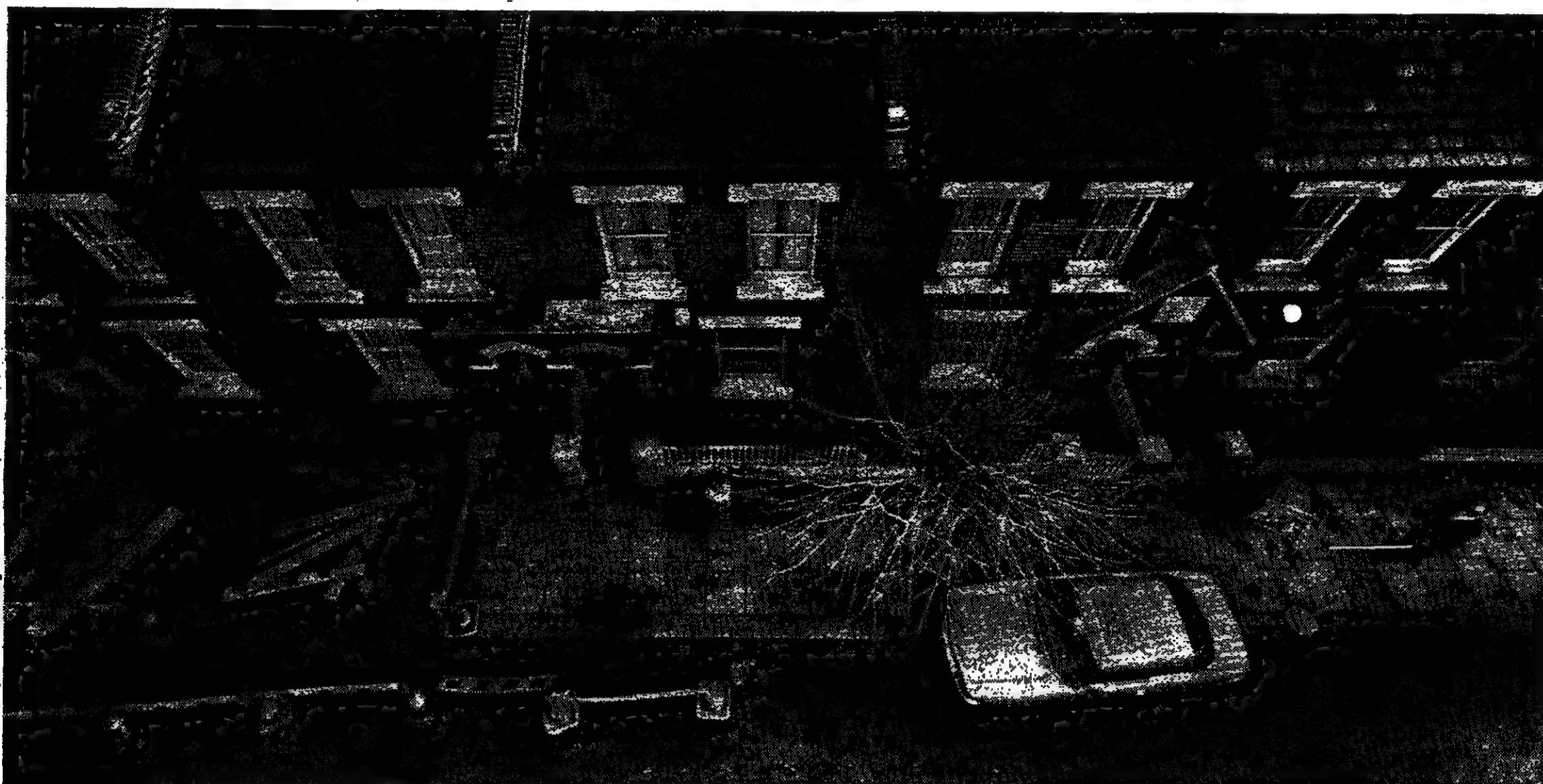
And if you'd like to help us further, any donations you care to give will go towards getting our Mobile Resource and Advice Centre on the road.

It will transport information and advice, as well as vital equipment to blind people all over the country.

We're a nationwide charity who also provides holiday hotels, grants, accommodation, employment and many other facilities.

If you would like to know more on how you can help, send the coupon off to Mirella Lindenfels at Action for Blind People.

Then perhaps blind people can walk the streets in safety.



The first obstacle to overcome is the assortment of scattered bin bags.

Of course, they were put on the pavement with the sole intention of helping the refuse collectors.

Unfortunately, if the white cane doesn't pick them up first, they can also help to put a blind person down.

The same can be said of obstacle number two. The car parked on the kerb. Any motorist who does this is not only breaking the law, they could be breaking a blind person's leg.

Even if they're lucky enough to avoid injury, they can be thrown off the route they work out step for step, and left totally disorientated.

your eyes tightly closed, for instance.

The bright orange tape stretched between two poles no longer tells you where a gaping hole is, or where the mounds of rubble have been dumped.

Our continual demands have helped in changing matters, with the passing of laws that demand the introduction of guard rails around all roadworks.

What we would like to see now, is textured paving on all kerb sides and railway platforms. After all, they are there for the use of the general public. And that includes blind people.

You can help to keep footpaths safe by not parking your car on the kerb or obstructing the pavement in any way.

## To him it's an assault course.

"Here is my contribution of £\_\_\_\_\_ towards the Mobile Resource and Advice Centre."

"Alternatively, debit my Access / Visa / Diners / Amex."

Credit Card No.

With £\_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Or call our 24 hour credit card line 071 639 3392.

"Please send me more information" ☐ Tick box if required

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Mirella Lindenfels, Action for Blind People, (LAB) FREEPOST, London SE16 1BP.

Blindness is the least of our problems

Action for Blind People



Fred Halliday asks whether the phoenix of democracy will rise from the ashes of Kuwait

# Will liberation improve people's lives?



The Emir of Kuwait under fire even before the invasion

Iraqi threat: the rulers thought that by retaining the Iraqi menace they could better control their own opposition. When the Kuwaiti government collapsed in August, many of its members, including the Emir, were seen in the streets of Kuwait, some of them in the company of Iraqi soldiers.

The ruling family summoned political figures to a gathering in Jeddah after the invasion. Faced with demands for an explanation of how they had mismanaged the foreign relations up to August 2, and allowed the country to be overrun by Iraq without any resistance or warning, the al-Sabahs promised two concessions. Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the prime minister and one of the architects of the earlier suppression of the constitution, committed the government to a more democratic regime in the future and even hinted that women would be given the vote — a long-standing opposition demand.

But the exiled government, encouraged as before by the Saudis, went back on its promises. The sheikh did not summon a promised consultative committee until January 7, on the eve of the expiry of the United Nations deadline. Saudi opposition politicians found their movements restricted and some were detained in their hotel rooms from early last month. Government ministers then began saying Kuwait would be placed under martial law for months and hinting that those Kuwaitis not considered loyal would be prevented from returning to the country.

The political emergency has been compounded by the dispute over control and management of Kuwaiti assets. Since last August the al-Sabah family has consolidated its hold over Kuwait's overseas assets, estimated at \$100 billion (£51 million). They have used these resources to appoint contractors of their choice for future reconstruction, and this may well have served to induce the coalition partners they are subsidising to accept them as the sole legitimate government of the country. The removal recently of four senior officials, including Fahad al-Rashid, the director-general of the Kuwait Investment Authority, the London-based body meant to exercise control over Kuwaiti overseas investment, highlights this.

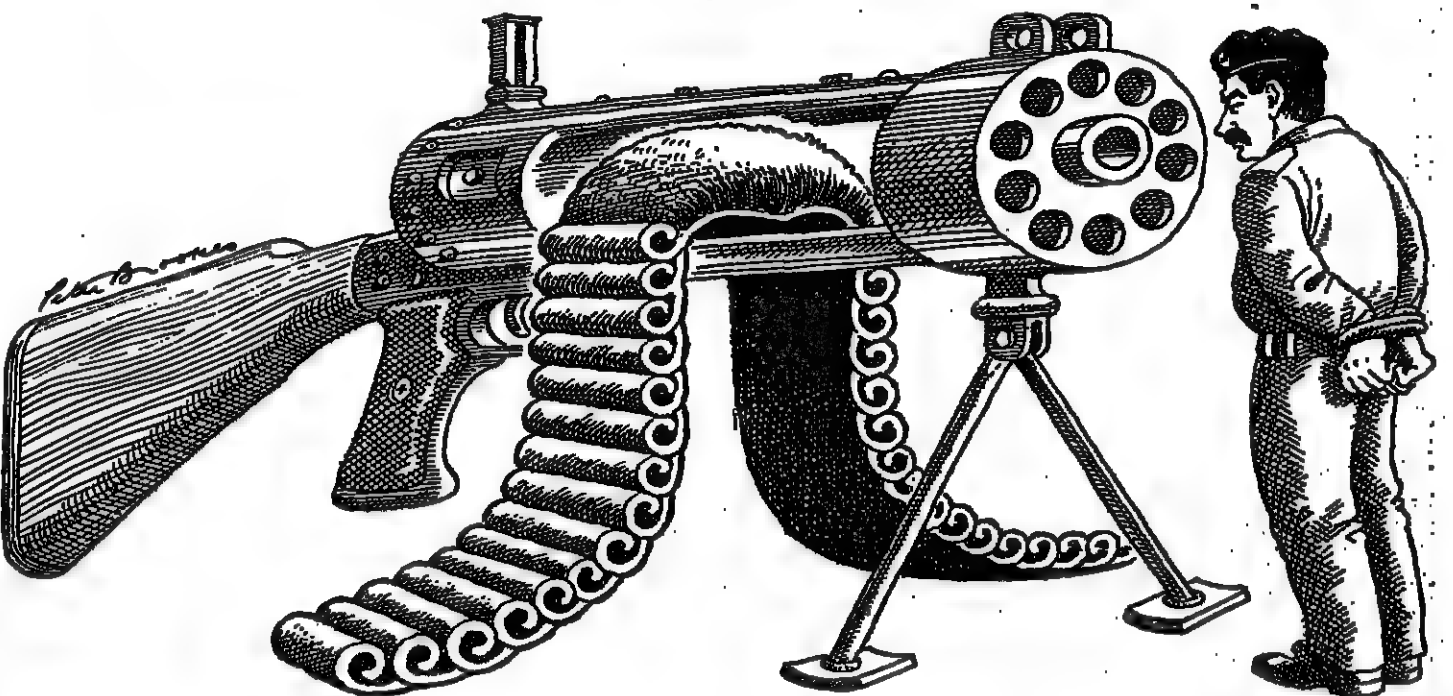
Yet the claim to the legitimacy of the al-Sabah rule is one that many Kuwaitis contest, and the dispute over their claims to political power and to control of Kuwait's foreign investments is likely to break into the open in the aftermath of liberation. The controversy over reconstruction contracts is not only about whether American firms are entitled to the lion's share, but also whether those awarding the contracts have the legal right to do so and what political price they may have exacted for their choices.

Saddam Hussein made the removal of the al-Sabahs one of the conditions of his leaving Kuwait and there was a time, soon after his invasion in August, when numerous Arab states, including the Saudis, were willing to countenance this. The challenge from within Kuwait is of a different kind: no Kuwaitis accept Saddam's claim to dictate their internal politics, and all would prefer the rule of the al-Sabah family to occupation by Iraq. But there was internal criticism that well before the Iraqi invasion the al-Sabahs had been acting unconstitutionally with regard both to government and state finances, and that they have used invasion to override objections from within the country.

Kuwait's political system is governed by the 1962 constitution, Article 6 of which states: "The system of government in Kuwait shall be democratic, under which sovereignty resides in the people, the sources of all powers." While the ruler has some specified powers, the task of running the country is vested in the 50-man National Assembly, elected on the basis of a limited franchise of 62,000 male Kuwaiti citizens. According to Article 107, the ruler is empowered to dissolve the assembly but, if he does so, he must convene general elections for a new one within two months.

Ann and John Tusa alert the allies to the pitfalls of a 'Nuremberg' trial for the Iraqi regime

## Just end to a just war



Public opinion, after a war caught on camera, would not tolerate proceedings in cameras and would demand to see justice being done. The drawbacks of putting cameras into the courtroom are obvious: trial by television, damage to the dignity of the court and the defendants, public impatience with abstract legal argument and lengthy examination of evidence.

A more serious objection is the opportunity it would give Saddam, and such of his associates as found themselves in the dock, to state their case to a world audience, a high proportion of which has ideas very different to those of the allies. The defendants would undoubtedly argue that their dispute with Kuwait could not be judged in isolation from the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, and legal process would be dragged into the political mire. The accused would be able to point to cases where their accusers have killed innocent civilians or destroyed non-military areas — and though the judges would be able to distinguish between

crime as deliberate policy and crime as the inadvertent by-product of war, the public will come both homes and condemn the proceedings.

Should a trial be held, it must be soundly based in law, impartial and unemotional in its conduct, and scrupulous in the examination of evidence and the case for the defence. Those who doubt the possibility of a fair trial might ponder the words of Robert Jackson, the chief American prosecutor at Nuremberg: "We may be certain that we do less injustice by the worst processes of the law than would be done by the best use of violence... We did not await the perfect court before stopping men from settling their grievances with brass knuckles."

And Jackson offered another thought for those who may think military victory is enough: international criminal trials will not make aggressive war or crimes against humanity impossible, but they could well "strengthen the bulwarks of peace and tolerance". Ann and John Tusa are authors of *The Nuremberg Trial* (Penguin, £7.50).

## Knowing what we fight for

Ronald Butt

For six months, British public opinion has been unshakable in its support of every stage of the evolving, UN-authorised policy for defeating Saddam Hussein's aggression in Kuwait. At some points the British even seemed more at ease with the commitment to war if necessary than opinion was within the United States.

There was no criticism at Westminster of the increasing emphasis on the military solution comparable to that of some mainstream congressional politicians in Washington. In Britain, dissent was confined to the far left and a couple of idiosyncratic former cabinet ministers. Nor were there any hesitations here comparable to those of other European Community governments or big peace demonstrations such as those on the continent. So what explains the remarkable steadiness of purpose of British public opinion?

The heart of the matter is that, although slow to take arms, the British are firm in doing so once they are sure that freedom requires it. Their attitude can be expressed in the words with which Oliver Cromwell explained the achievements of his characteristic russet-coated captain "that knows what he fights for and loves what he knows".

It has been crucial to British opinion that the coalition has at every stage been remarkably open about the development of events and that the public has remained confident that war really was the last resort. But even more important is the British conviction, learned the hard way before 1939, that nothing damages the prospect of peace more than to display to the aggressor a fear of war.

Public opinion has also instinctively recognised from the outset what the politicians, bound by the narrow wording of the United Nations resolutions, have felt unable to acknowledge explicitly. People have understood that the issue was not simply Kuwait, but the threat that Saddam Hussein would use its annexation as the foundation of the most dangerous

imperial tyranny the post-war world has seen.

The implication of this was that the Iraqi people had to be persuaded, by war if need be, to replace Saddam with a government able to make peace and keep it. It was fear that the Russian proposals might give him an escape route that explains why the majority favoured their rejection. Yet I also suspect that the same British were glad that Moscow tried. Public support has depended on the assurance that every effort was made for a peaceful solution. If there had been a recurrence of the accidental bombing of a civilian air raid shelter, the public would have been deeply troubled. To stiffen resistance to an enemy who is bombing you is one thing. To accept the visible evidence on television of carnage inflicted, even accidentally, by your own side, is another. For all its irritating qualities, television has made this a more conscience-driven war than any in the past. I doubt whether we could have bombed Dresden as we did or the Americans Hiroshima under the eye of the television camera. It is a war embarked on with great caution and waged with an accountability to the public which has, in a sense, democratised the process of war-making.

When the last shot has been fired, the public should not cease to call the politicians to account, over the failures of policy that made war unavoidable. They must demand effective regulation of the international arms trade, so that industrial nations should never again blithely supply the means of death to dictators like Saddam. For that was the political failure of understanding that was the ultimate cause of this war.

The public must also insist that the politicians bring pressure to bear on the Palestinian question so that a settlement is reached to prevent further Middle East instability. In this way, the politicians have been obliged to confide in and heed the public as in no other. They must do the same when peace is restored.

With a military victory over Saddam Hussein, the allies will be enough to satisfy the allies? Or will the full uncovering of Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait and its violations of the Geneva Convention in the treatment of prisoners of war make demands for an international criminal trial irresistible?

The precedent for such a trial is the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1945-46, when Nazi leaders were accused of waging aggressive war and of deliberately committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. While the Nuremberg example demonstrates that such a trial can have political, ethical and legal value, it also illustrates its dangers and difficulties.

From the start it must be understood that the outcome of a trial is unpredictable. In 1945 most members of the public would have said that hanging was too good for the 22 defendants at Nuremberg. Yet three of them were acquitted, and a further seven received prison sentences. Nuremberg proved that the expression of revulsion and the application of international law are two different things. Those who brand the Iraqi regime criminal must be ready to accept the verdict of a court finding them innocent.

One argument in favour of bringing Saddam to justice is that states waging war against him on grounds of his illegal invasion and occupation of Kuwait have a duty to prove their case, that claims of a "just war" should be judged by international law, and that there is an obligation to apply legal as well as military sanctions.

A war crimes trial of Iraqi leaders would not only assert the supremacy of international law. The Nuremberg trial had an educative effect. It reminded the victors, as well as vanquished, of their legal responsibilities and the restraints under which even "total" war must be waged; it taught that "it was only obeying orders" or "they were doing it too" are not valid defences; that men who sit at desks can be held more culpable than those who

## Ending the media blitz

Field Marshall Lord Carver, the former defence staff chief, has launched his own offensive against some of his colleagues in the armed forces. With the start of the land war in the Gulf and the subsequent news blackout, he is critical of the retired senior military men who, in the absence of hard facts about the attack, have been analysing developments on television and radio programmes.

As BBC1 yesterday scrapped its John Wayne film *The Horse Soldiers* to make way for David Dimbleby and his panel of experts, Lord Carver urged an end to all the military talk. "I do not think this type of comment is at all helpful. At best it will mislead the public... at worst it will help the enemy." He complains that Saddam Hussein must have been aware "down to the last hour" of the timing of the land attack and favours a Falklands war approach, in which all conflict details are rigidly controlled by the defence ministry.

Lord Carver, along with General Sir John Hackett, has declined fees of thousands of pounds to discuss the conflict on television or radio. Although he has not singled out any of his former comrades for criticism, Lord Bramall, Air Vice Marshall Tony Mason, Lord Lewin and Field Marshall Sir John Stanier are among the high-profile experts.

Both ITN and the BBC reject the criticism, pointing to the high ratings achieved by news programmes about the war. "Particularly with the news blackout it is important to give people some idea of what is going on in the broadest terms," says a BBC spokesman. "That is why we need experts with a military background to help explain things."



The last of Brighton's 650 parking meters topped at the weekend and the council has come up with a novel scheme to rid itself of the redundant machine; a win-a-meter contest, with the prize going to the person who suggests the best use for the last meter. "You can be the proud owner of one to display on the mantelpiece or in your entrance hall," says a spokesman.

## Cryptic tradition

Dr George Carey has one more hurdle to cross before his enthronement as Archbishop of Canterbury. It is a centuries-old ritual at which the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury vote for or against his candidacy and which could, technically, end in rejection. A simple majority vote is required.

The ceremony is set out in the Appointment of Bishops Act of 1534. It takes place in the cathedral crypt on March 6. The Dean, the Very Rev John Simpson, will read a letter from the Queen nominating Dr Carey. A spokesman for Canterbury Cathedral says: "It's not just a rubber-stamping exercise. It is very important." In the unlikely event of rejection, the church would be thrown into a constitutional dilemma. The attorney general would be obliged to seek a High Court order forcing acceptance. Lord Cogan, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, believes the ritual should be scrapped. The

Dean and Chapter have never tried to reject the name given to them, so it's time this was reviewed and ended. If that does not happen the process should be simplified." He is not the first person to complain. An attempt to abolish it was made in parliament in 1880.

## Epic decision

Listeners tuning into the BBC's serialisation of *War and Peace* on Radio Five tonight will be disappointed to find the readings have been suspended. But the move has nothing to do with the Gulf war, simply a calculation by John Gaudie, the producer, that anyone following the story now would be unlikely to see it through to its end. "I worked out that, at our present rate of progress, it would take 70 years to finish the book," says Gaudie.

Leo Tolstoy's epic was read during the last ten-week series of *Fanshawe on Five*, the popular magazine programme, but the decision was taken to drop it as from tonight.

Disappointed listeners will be offered some consolation, however. "We have acquired a boxed set of Sergei Bondarchuk's film version of *War and Peace* on three video cassettes, which we will award to a listener as a competition prize," says Gaudie. There is only one snag: the film is entirely in Russian, and there are no subtitles.

## Tribal law

Lord Forbes, the Scottish peer, has found himself embroiled in a saga worthy of *Boys' Own* involving the Kings of Swaziland and a distant cousin who has never met. As head of the 550-year-old Aberdeenshire clan Lord Forbes received a letter from Peter Forbes, based in Johannesburg, who is fighting in the Swaziland courts for the return of property seized when he was expelled from the country in 1978, and whose life has been threatened as a result. "According to Swaziland custom you are my tribal chief to whom I must appeal in a matter of life and death," said the letter.

Lord Forbes has responded to the request and sent an urgent missive to the king, appealing for safe access and freedom from intimidation for his African cousin.

Peter Forbes's grandfather, David, left Scotland in 1850 and made his fortune as a hunter and mining prospector in southern Africa. He was an adviser to Swazi kings. His grandson, following the family tradition, assisted the country's monarchy in the 1970s when he took part in an investigation against alleged corruption, which led to his expulsion.

Lord Forbes's letter to the king expresses pride in his family's role in Swaziland's history, and asks him to use his royal authority to grant the request. Lady Forbes says: "We have never met Peter Forbes, but when a kinsman appeals for help you have to do the honourable thing."

Sir Kingsley Amis was gratified to learn that no less than four ambassadors — the Italian, French, Bulgarian and American — will attend the Forbess next month to celebrate the publication of his memoirs. "I have checked the index and none of them are mentioned in the book," he says. "So they are in the clear."

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

Behind the smoke screen of war abroad, one of the most sinister threats to individual liberty since the Window Tax is being quietly slipped into law. Local authorities are being empowered to appoint litter officers. How will it work? The scheme is simple and has been "tried up" on residents of Westminster for some time, apparently with success. Local authorities may authorise uniformed officials to walk around commanding people to pick up any litter they drop. If the individual refuses, he or she will be issued with a "fixed penalty" notice. At the time of writing, it is not clear whether these will be on a sliding scale of penalty points, as for errant drivers: one point (say) for a sweet wrapper; three for a crisp packet; and 10 for chewing gum on seats. But, anyway, just as with traffic offences, the accused then has to choose whether to pay a standard fine, by post, or fight the charge in the courts.

But there is one huge difference from the world of motoring. A driving offence involves a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle has a number plate. Should the motorist fail to pay his fine, the authorities have an easy way of tracking him down. You or I, however, taking a short walk down to the newsagents, do not have to display a number plate, nor, collared by a council warden, and disinclined to take instructions from him, we could refuse to reveal our identity. We could say we were Arthur Scargill. We could give a false address. Best of all, we could simply run away.

Or walk away. For these wardens are not officers of the law.

They will have no powers of arrest. It is not (I understand) proposed that they be armed, patrol with Alsatian dogs, or carry handcuffs. Yet should you refuse to comply, it will be hard for them to drag you to court or even to secure payment — unless you choose to make a fuss.

And if you do? How will the charge of wilfully dropping a sweet wrapper at a given place on a given occasion, be proved before a court, beyond all reasonable doubt? What if you claim that the wrapper dropped accidentally when you fetched your handkerchief from your pocket? What if you suggest that the warden mistook the source of the wrapper, which in fact dropped from the pocket of an adjacent bystander, or blew past you in the wind? What if you denied that the incident occurred at all? Third party witnesses will be required. I realise we are a censorious nation, but how many of us wish to appear in court as prosecution witnesses against old ladies charged with dropping Kleenex tissues?

But of course our town halls know very well that this system will really be just a sort of uniformed bluff, which anyone may call. They also know, however, that most Britons by instinct obey people in uniforms. Citizens will not, generally, run away or give false addresses. Nor will they fight charges through the courts. None of this unpleasantness need arise, you see: all you need to do is pick up the litter when the man tells you to. What could be easier?

And, once this measure proves a success, what will be simpler than a system of local council "noise"

wardens? Anti-social citizens who play their radios in public places, passengers with infuriating Walkman headphones on trains, neighbours who give loud parties, pensioners who have their television volume turned up too high — all these people should be susceptible to a tap on the shoulder: "Turn it down, madam, or we'll give you a fixed penalty." Then, once we've got our countrymen keeping quiet and picking up their sweet wrappers, couldn't we smarten them up a bit too? Isn't dressing in a shabby or outrageous fashion really a form of public nuisance? So how about "dress wardens"? You set out for work in old socks, a tasteless tie, or your flimsy undies. You arrive at Waterloo. Somebody blows a whistle. You hear a shout: "Fashion violation! You! Yes you!" and you are frogmarched straight to the Sock Shop.

We're not there yet, but we're getting there. In Thailand they've arrived. A new law is under consideration (reports of all journals, the *Architects Journal*) "penalising those deemed harmful to society." The law would catch, for instance, those who "pass remarks on women" or "loll around in public."

The legislation could also be used against professionals, such as architects. But unfortunately, only if their buildings collapse, not because their architecture is exceedingly ugly, or boring.

"People detained under the legislation could be put on probation, 'quarantined' or detained in health institutions."

Hmm... will columnists be safe?

THE TIMES'S  
The following is a list of the names of the people who have been mentioned in the article. The names are listed in alphabetical order. The names are: Lord Forbes, Peter Forbes, David Forbes, John Gaudie, Leo Tolstoy, George Carey, John Simpson, John Hackett, Tony Mason, John Stanier, John Cogan, Kingsley Amis, Arthur Scargill, and the author, Matthew Parris.





## G-DAY IN KUWAIT

The "dramatic success" of the opening stages in the blitzkrieg claimed by the allied commander in the Gulf, General Norman Schwarzkopf, yesterday is good news. It demonstrates the clear value of prior air and naval bombardment and vindicates the allied delay in launching the main air-land battle. Several thousand Iraqi troops surrendered. But early success should not, as he himself stressed, diminish awareness of the dangers ahead. The campaign will be extremely hazardous, even if the fighting is as short as the allies hope.

The four-pronged assault is being fought on a massive scale and with great ferocity across a front running some 300 miles from western Iraq to the Gulf. Iraq may no longer, after six weeks of the most intensive air bombardment in history, have the fourth largest army in the world, but the allies still confront numerically superior forces with a reputation for defensive warfare. The Iraqis will never have faced anything like the coordinated air-land-sea offensive now launched, or the firepower the allies command, but the technical superiority of advanced electronic weapons, so decisive in the air, is a less certain ally in a land battle. The degree to which Iraq's tanks, artillery and personnel carriers have survived air bombardment will only be known for sure when they are forced into the open.

President Saddam Hussein's hopes that the deep and deadly defences of the elaborate "Saddam line" along the Saudi-Kuwait frontier would condemn the allies to a costly war of attrition have been dealt a blow. The line has been breached, where it has not been bypassed. Saddam, who has never fought a war involving massive air or sea power and who failed to use his air force effectively against Iran, probably exaggerated the value of entrenched defences. The light resistance put up by most of Iraq's frontline conscripts is encouraging. So was the swift deployment of heavily armoured allied units in the second phase of a campaign clearly aimed at forcing Iraq to fight a mobile war on the allies' terms. But many of the frontline troops appear simply to have turned tail.

Those that have remained, lightly armed, relatively ill-trained and traumatised by the weight of shelling and air bombardment, are not the best measure of Iraq's capacity and will to resist. In the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq

successfully used the tactic of rapid withdrawal followed by punishing counter-attack by more heavily armed formations. Behind the front line are two more tiers of Iraqi defence: the armoured reserves in central Kuwait and, to their west in Iraq and their north straddling the Iraq-Kuwait border, eight divisions of Republican Guards.

The allied campaign depends on sustaining tactical surprise and rapid operational momentum, preventing Iraq from using its mobile strategic reserves effectively. General Schwarzkopf is out to sustain momentum on so many fronts that Iraqi commanders do not know when, or where, to commit reserves. The simultaneous commitment of all forces — air strikes to prevent Iraqi forces from regrouping, naval power, paratroopers and amphibious forces — are signatures of a classic battle of mobility.

The progress on the military front must, however, be set against reports from within Kuwait. Yesterday, Iraqi troops were compounding earlier breaches of international law by murdering and rounding up civilians in Kuwait. Saddam's forces had set fire to more than 200 oil wells, shrouding the battlefield in thick black smog. As part of what looks like a relentless "scorched earth" policy, there were persistent reports that troops were demolishing buildings in Kuwait City. Saddam has declared that he will use any weapon, legal or illegal, military or civilian. The objective of this war is to liberate Kuwait. Saddam, so far apparently unable to thwart this in fair combat, has predictably resorted to foul means.

Saddam may use Kuwaiti civilians as human shields. That cannot be allowed to affect the conduct of the war any more than his earlier blackmail using foreign civilians averted preparations for it. If Saddam retains any sanity, he must realise that such brutality only adds weight to the voices of those who contend that the allies should extend their war aims to encompass his overthrow. Every Kuwaiti civilian tortured or killed strengthens the case for bringing Iraq's political and military commanders to justice, accountable as they will be held to be under international law and, specifically, under UN resolution 674. Their suffering meanwhile is conclusive justification for the allies' determination not to be bogged down in phoney peace negotiations, and to prosecute the war to the bitter end.

## PANGLOSSIAN PREDICTIONS

A few courageous—or imaginative—economists are starting to detect a glint of light at the end of the long tunnel of recession. The economic figures from the government may still be uniformly gloomy, the corporate announcements in the City may still be full of warnings about redundancies and investment cutbacks, but poring over the economy's statistical entrails, the London Business School's forecasting unit has come to a firmly optimistic conclusion. The worst of the recession, they say, is over. The economy will be perceptibly recovering when the next quarter begins in just six weeks' time.

The LBS economists suggest that economic revival will be securely underway with only a further half point cut in interest rates in the Budget. Beyond that the economic upturn appears so certain that further reductions can safely be delayed well into the autumn, and base rates can stay as high as 12 per cent until the end of the year.

For a government beset by calls for immediate cuts in interest rates but nervous of foreign exchange dealers' reactions, such optimism is obviously a relief. For everyone else, it is dangerous. Ministers will feel more comfortable in the belief that excessive caution is paying off, albeit somewhat more slowly and a great deal more painfully than they had hoped. The monetary masochists in the Treasury and the Bank of England will cheerfully seize on any optimism to counsel benign inaction.

This would be to flirt with disaster. Concrete evidence of a spontaneous economic recovery, without further significant

help from monetary and fiscal policy, is sadly lacking. The hopes of economists at the LBS, the Treasury and other bastions of bullishness, are based not on observations of the present state of the economy, but on theories derived from the experience of the recent past. Essentially, the optimists believe that the economy must be on the point of recovery, because recent downturns in consumer spending have almost never lasted for more than about nine months.

But the British economy today is operating in very different conditions from those seen in previous recessions. Real interest rates are exceptionally high and government policy is constrained by the ERM. Even more important is a social and psychological factor. Consumers, homeowners and businessmen are being crushed by the debts they rashly took on when interest rates were lower. Many are determined never to fall into the same trap again. Will they really revert so soon to the high spending, high borrowing lifestyles of the 1980s? This is essentially what the Panglossians predict. The LBS forecast assumes that personal savings rates will never again rise to the levels which used to be typical before the credit binge of the late 1980s.

The spontaneous recovery expected by the Treasury and its supporters requires a return to the Yuppie spend-now-and-pay-tomorrow mentality responsible for many of our present economic problems. For the intellectual architects of a policy of monetary restraint to rely on such a mechanism, is a measure of the pass to which their policy has now brought Britain.

## FIRST PRINCIPLES

Eight per cent more university students were awarded first class degrees last year than the year before, according to the official *University Statistics* published yesterday. This might be thought good news indeed. For most of the decade, the nation has been gripped by a popular panic about educational standards. The political right has blamed educational liberalism; the political left, state spending cuts. To maintain at the average dinner party in the London Borough of Islington that education is improving is to invite derision. Evidence that, in one respect, at least, education is on the up should make for more stimulating debate.

The briefest acquaintance with human nature, however, shows that when facts contradict prejudice, it is the facts which have to give. The new statistics will confound the edu-doomsters not a jot. Education has declined. The proportion of firsts has gone up. Conclusion? You don't need a first to crack that one. The universities are clearly lowering standards. Lord Beloff, founder of Buckingham University says that firsts "should not be allowed to proliferate, otherwise it's like inflation and you start destroying the value of the currency".

Is this likely? The protection against devaluation lies in the external examiners, who check one university's degree against another. They have reported no such trend. There is however a danger that they have become captives of the institutions they supervise, which is why the new Academic Audit Unit has just been set up by the

universities as a second check. If, when its views emerge, they too fail to substantiate the view that degrees are being devalued, no doubt there will be a call for further, more rigorous, more independent, checks — anything rather than admit that the improvement is real.

Beloff's analogy with inflation is worth pursuing. Among economists, it is a commonplace that official price figures overstate true inflation. Most goods are improving in quality year by year. The inflation index will compare the price of a postwar Ford Popular with that of today's Rover Metro, but of course the latter is a superior (if less romantic) product. In many academic subjects, the same applies. Someone with a first in economics earned 30 years ago would lack the mathematical knowledge to understand a modern economics text (though it is a moot point whether today's economist is a more useful product than his predecessor from Ford Popular days). A physicist or a chemist (though not a classicist or a philosopher) with a vintage degree would encounter similar difficulties.

True, there are today more universities, some of indifferent quality. Even so, if these universities are awarding more firsts, standards are likely to be improving. That 21.4 per cent of Cambridge students and 14.2 per cent of Oxford's are getting firsts is good news. That the proportion at Bangor is up 30 per cent (to 7.6 per cent) and at Cardiff up 27 per cent (to 8.3 per cent) since last year is first class.

## Plight of the Iraqi prisoners of war

From Mr Kevin Grant  
Sir, Later today both parties in the Gulf may be taking prisoners, perhaps in large numbers. Whilst I have the deepest fear for the fate of coalition prisoners I also want to enter a plea that Iraqi prisoners be given the option of not being repatriated at the end of hostilities.

I fear that they will face wholesale or random execution on charges of desertion, cowardice or whatever their brutal high command cares to specify.

I hope the Geneva accords provide for this and that the particular settlement terms we may hope shortly to be negotiating will take account of it. We made tragic mistakes in this respect in 1945.

Yours sincerely,  
KEVIN GRANT,  
October Cottage, Main Road,  
Old Fishbourne,  
Chichester, West Sussex.  
February 23.

## Setting example on pay

From Mr Geoffrey Robinson  
Sir, If the CBI's members are short of cash to pay the creditors, lower interest rates (report, February 14) would help, but there are other ways of saving money, for example, by not granting wage and salary increases of 9.75 per cent as in your public-service pay table (February 22).

Industrialists should be prepared to suffer first. Directors' Jagjags should be sold and expense accounts pared. They should eat in the workers' canteen and take a cut in fees. Then the workers would accept less than 9.75 per cent, money would be found for the creditors, factory-gate inflation reduced and products competitive, even if sterling were buoyant.

I was once successful enough in the port and harbours industry to learn that it is no use asking the employees to take cuts or small increases unless the directors have demonstrably suffered worse ones before the start of wage negotiations.

The CBI should tell us how many of its members have done that, and to what extent, before they wring their hands over interest rates again. Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY ROBINSON,  
Sains End,  
Goswell Lane,  
Ash, Canterbury, Kent.  
February 22.

## Community forests

From Mr A. W. M. Christie-Miller  
Sir, I am sure many of your readers will have been surprised by Marion Shoard's shattering of the consensus on the prospects for national and community forests (article, February 16). Her assertion that the whole concept is a confidence trick by wicked landowners is difficult to take seriously. Timber Growers have publicly expressed cynicism over the proposals and this is reinforced by the lukewarm reaction of many farmers and landowners.

Neither farmers nor foresters regard these forests as a solution to current difficulties and what is more there has been no indication from the Countryside Commission or government how they intend to implement or fund their grandiose proposals.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW CHRISTIE-MILLER  
(Chairman),  
Timber Growers United Kingdom,  
24 High Street, Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mr Josslyn Gore-Booth  
Sir, Marion Shoard's article questioning the rationale for community forests points to an uncomfortable

## Dalai Lama visit

From Mrs Sheila Oakes  
Sir, Latvia was invaded and occupied by the USSR in 1940. Mr Major, in his capacity as British prime minister, met the foreign minister of its newly-formed national government on January 23, although they are not yet able to negotiate with other states.

Tibet was invaded and occupied by China during 1949-50. Despite the fact that Britain negotiated and made official agreements with the Tibetan government prior to 1949, and that there has been a Tibetan Government-in-exile since 1959 (al-

## Dissension in USSR

From Mr Alexander Chibisov  
Sir, Living in the Soviet Union these days is like living in a wood: the further you venture into the wood the murkier it gets.

On Monday Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov tried to scare us (report, February 19), with our fear giving way to the realisation that a price reform, however painful, has to be undertaken. Then on Tuesday Boris Yeltsin tried to frighten us in his televised address (report, February 20). He was trying to scare us with KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov's sinister designs, the deadlock of the price reform, and a centre which blocks the operation of the Russian parliament.

The most frightening stories were about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Speaking to millions of viewers, Yeltsin accused Gorbachev of cheating the people, of anti-popular policies, of drifting towards the conservatives, and of trying to "preserve rigidly centralised power while paying lip-service to perestroika". After this tirade things began to look really ominous. Yeltsin suggested that it was impossible to cooperate with the president

## Motives of British asylum seekers

From the Dean of Westminster  
Sir, Ronald Butt ("No asylum for job-hunters", February 18) asserts that most of those arriving in this country to seek asylum from persecution are in fact seeking economic betterment and that, even when they come from countries lacking our standards of freedom, "persecution is not their motive for leaving".

How does Mr Butt know this? As he says, the Home Office is unable to disprove their claims to have been persecuted, and the refugee agencies believe that the great majority of those they see are genuine victims of persecution. Some who are granted "exceptional leave to remain" are victims of torture, and some of these have appealed and been given full refugee status. We find Mr Butt's unsubstantiated claims unimpressive.

Mr Butt names Turkey, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Zaire as countries from which people are arriving. No wonder. These are countries, some of them riven by civil war, in which stories of widespread persecution, political detention and systematic torture, are well attested. (He also names Zambia, a country the government did not include in a recent parliamentary answer listing those

which generated asylum-seekers.) In the case of Sri Lanka and Turkey the United Kingdom was found in 1989 to have wrongly returned asylum-seekers who were subsequently persecuted, some being detained and tortured.

Of course not all asylum applicants are genuine, but there is strong evidence to show that the majority of those who are given "exceptional leave to remain" have been forced to flee their homeland and have lost virtually everything: their culture, their profession, their possessions, their home, even their closest family.

The fact that applications for asylum have risen steeply must not be allowed to endanger the principle of offering it to those in genuine need. Given the level of persecution and torture documented by Amnesty International, the number of refugees arriving in this country is relatively small and our reception of them, at best, grudging.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MAYNE  
(Member, Steering Group, Charter '87 (a Charter for Refugees))  
The Deanery,  
Westminster Abbey, SW1.  
February 21.

## Child support doubts

From Ms M. O'Hara and others  
Sir, We write to express our concern about the proposals on child maintenance contained in the Child Support Bill, due for its second reading in the Lords on February 25. The measures contained in the bill, which would enable less than 10 per cent of single parents on income sufficiently to give up such support, will do very little to help eliminate child poverty.

The proposal to cut the allowances of single mothers who are receiving income support if they refuse to name fathers will put some children at risk and increase the impoverishment of others.

Many women are reluctant to name or seek maintenance from the fathers of their children because of fear of violence towards themselves, their children, or both. This measure, if enacted, will put some children at risk of violence and will lead to some children being subjected to the trauma of witnessing violence towards their mothers. In cases where mothers' allowances are cut because of a refusal to claim maintenance from fathers

there will be a decline in the living standards of children already living in poverty, since children cannot be isolated in practice from the financial effects of such reductions within low-income families.

We welcome the continued separation of maintenance arrangements and those concerning residence and contact with the child, but are concerned that in practice such a separation may sometimes be difficult to maintain.

Decisions about residence and contact should always be made according to the best interests of the child and should take into account the child's own wishes. Any attempt to link maintenance payments and contact with children should, in our view, be clearly rejected.

Yours faithfully,  
MAUREEN O'HARA,  
CHRISTOPHER BROWN (NSPCC),  
IAN SPARKS (Children's Society),  
HELEN DENT  
(National Children's Home),  
ORIOLE GOLDSMITH  
(Save the Children Fund),  
FRAN BENNETT  
(Child Poverty Action Group),  
c/o The Children's Legal Centre,  
20 Compton Terrace, N1.  
February 21.

## Birmingham Six

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy  
Sir, If Sir John Stephenson (February 18) like myself, has read "With care and without prejudice", the judgment of Lord Lane in the last appeal of the Birmingham Six and still cannot see that, on the evidence presented, not to quash the convictions was a travesty of justice, then he simply confirms Bernard Levin's point (February 7) about the unreal world in which so many of our judges live. And the most glaring unreality is their inability to recognise that policemen can and often do tell fibs.

Yours etc.,  
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,  
Champfneys, Wigginton,  
Tring, Herts.  
February 21.

## Drink and driving

From Mr D. M. Balfour  
Sir, Can we not improve on the rather haphazard way in which the motorist may determine whether he is likely to cause an offence by driving a car when he is over what is called "the limit"? As things stand, few of us know or understand the formula.

It is an offence for the motorist to drive without using a seatbelt, but cars are fitted with seatbelts for this purpose; it is also an offence to exceed the speed limit, but roads are clearly marked with the speed limit and the motorist has a speedometer in his car. By the same token, some form of personal breathalyser, properly approved and tested, would give the motorist the means to measure his fitness before he starts to drive.

Yours truly,  
DAVID BALFOUR,  
Little Garstone Manor,  
Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mrs Marya Fford  
Sir, I must inform Mr Evans there is something even more distasteful and unhealthy than licking stamps. Just think of sharing a bowl of peanuts with other people's well-licked fingers.

Yours faithfully,  
MARYA FFFORDE,  
Rhydawn,  
Cwmdu, Crickhowell,  
Powys.

From Mr J. W. West  
Sir, Mr Evans should go to France, where you can buy books of self-adhesive postage stamps.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN W. WEST,  
6 Weydown Court,  
Weydown Road,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

## Music lessons for ears that hear

From Mr Hilary Dwan Wetton  
Sir, Richard Morrison's article on school music teaching (February 13) begs as many questions as it seeks to answer. Of course its thrust is undeniable. The teaching of music in the maintained sector is indeed under grave threat, but this is much more to do with the consequences of local financial management and a failure to fund instrumental teaching adequately than with egalitarianism or failures in curricular music teaching.

Encouraging children to "express their feelings" and "discover things for themselves" through music is not a "tired form" of anything. It is a central necessity of all music-making. Gustav Holst said: "There is no point in learning anything until it is a positive nuisance not to know it". "All cows eat grass" is of no interest to a child who finds no pleasure in music-making. The duty of the music teacher is to inspire a love of music, not a love of notes.

The central duty for musicians who work in schools is to develop this love of music and through it the aural awareness of their students. Musical literacy is clearly valuable, but nothing like as important as aural perception.

Children who do not listen carefully will never discover what music can offer. That is exactly the reason why "sparkling school concerts" do indeed impress parents and governors and are a vital extension of the classroom role of the music teacher.

If such a concert, and indeed classroom lessons, can embrace musical traditions other than Western European ones, this seems to me an enormous advantage. It is perfectly true that few teachers are yet equally knowledgeable about ragas and *Rigoletto*, but that is exactly what we hope future generations of music teachers may be. The idea that multi-cultural music teaching is tantamount to high standards is manifestly nonsense.

A group of joyless grade 5 theory-passers is not the objective of music teaching and is no answer to the current crisis in music education. If we are to save the wonderful instrumental standards achieved by the best youth orchestras and simultaneously develop a universal enthusiasm for music in all its different forms there will have to be political support for adequate funding.

Yours faithfully,  
HILARY DWAN WETTON  
(Director of Music),  
St Paul's Girls' School,  
Brook Green, W6.  
February 13.

From Mr Mike Nelson  
Sir, In a recent discussion on Granada Television one of the contributors pointed out that about 45 per cent of the performing membership of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra had started to play their particular instrument through the peripatetic instrumental teaching system.

It seems probable that only intervention at ministerial level can effectively halt the rapid decay of our remaining instrumental services, the teaching of which is the envy of our European partners. Yours faithfully,  
MIKE NELSON,  
236 Hungerford Road,  
Crewe,  
Cheshire.  
February 13.

## Progress licked

From Mrs Lesley Lewis  
Sir, Mr D. G. Evans asks (February 20) if any more distasteful procedure than stamp-licking has withstood progress. The answer is yes. Many people cannot turn the pages of any book, or separate any pieces of paper, without instinctively licking their fingers even before they start. Cashiers in supermarkets handle loose change and unwrapped food, then lick their fingers to open plastic bags obligingly for customers.

My objections are on the grounds of taste, not hygiene. Down with finger-lickin', I say. Yours faithfully,  
LESLAY LEWIS,  
38 Whitelands House,  
Cheltenham Terrace, SW3.

From Mrs Marya Fford  
Sir, I must inform Mr Evans there is something even more distasteful and unhealthy than licking stamps. Just think of sharing a bowl of peanuts with other people's well-licked fingers.

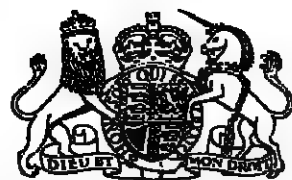
Yours faithfully,  
MARYA FFFORDE,  
Rhydawn,  
Cwmdu, Crickhowell,  
Powys.

From Mr J. W. West  
Sir, Mr Evans should go to France, where you can buy books of self-adhesive postage stamps.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN W. WEST,  
6 Weydown Court,  
Weydown Road,  
Haslemere, Surrey.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 23: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended the National Youth Music Theatre's production of 'October's Children' at the Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 24: The Princess Royal arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this morning from Madrid.

Mrs Timothy Holderness-Roddam and the Hon Mrs Loulouidis were in attendance.

## Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, grand premier, will attend a reception at the Army and Navy Club at 6.00 to mark the 70th anniversary of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

The Princess of Wales will visit the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and the Band of the Scots Guards at Wellington Barracks at noon and meet families of those serving in the Gulf.

The Duke of Kent will visit the Director General Supplies and Transport Services (Naval) at Enniskerry, at 10.30, and the Royal Navy Stores Depot, Copenacre, Corsham, Wiltshire, at 1.50.

## Birthdays today

Mr John Arlott, cricket commentator, 77; Miss Elkie Brooks, singer, 46; Mr Anthony Burgess, novelist and critic, 76; Mr Tom Courtenay, actor, 54; Lord Crichton, 57; Sir Antony Duff, diplomat, 71; Sir Alexander Gordon, architect, 74; Mr George Harrison, former Beatle, 48; Dr Harvey McGregor, QC, 65; Mr Hector MacKenzie, trades unionist, 51; Mr Robert Neame, brewer, 57; Major-General Sir Laurence Noel, 59; Lord Justice Parker, 68; Mr David Putnam, film producer, 50; Lieutenant-Colonel J.R. Stephenson, secretary, MCC, 60; Professor S.R. Sutherland, vice-chancellor, London University, 50; Mr A.C.F. Tovey, master, Dulwich College, 52; Sir Ian Wallace, company chairman, 75; Marshal of the RAF Sir Keith Williamson, 63.

## Church news

**Appointments**  
The Rev G. Michael C. Jones, Canon, St. Peter's Church, London, will be in charge of the service at 10.30 on Sunday, February 25, at St. Peter's Church, London. The Rev G. Michael C. Jones, Canon, St. Peter's Church, London, will be in charge of the service at 10.30 on Sunday, February 25, at St. Peter's Church, London.

## Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs H.G. Fetherstonhaugh was christened Hector Albert Timothy, by the Rev R. Kendrick and Canon R. Byers, at St. Elia's Church, Llanelli, North Wales, on Saturday, February 16. The godparents are Mr H. Alexander, Mr D. Rae, Mr J. Rogers, Mr N. Cheyne, and Mrs S. Hubbard, Miss D. Owen, Mrs D. Shephards and Mrs R. Holden.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.E. Campbell and Miss E.C. Kilburne**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs G.H. Campbell, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and Lisa, daughter of Mr A.M.C. Kilburne, of Bury, Hampshire, and Mrs F. Page, of Sea Palling, Norfolk.

**Mr D.J. Foster and Miss S.L. Root**  
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs J. Foster, of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and Sherri Lynn, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.S. Root, of Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

**Mr A.M. Galloway and Miss E.C. James**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Major Rodrick Galloway, of La Fommarde, La Fommarde, France, and Emma, elder daughter of Sir Kenneth and Lady James, of Lower Ockington, Gloucestershire.

**Mr A.L. Gavin and Miss E.J. Miller**  
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mrs David Gavin, of London, and Ellen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Harold Miller, of Worcester, Massachusetts, USA.

**Mr N.M. Harley and Miss E. Eiden-Dew**  
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Harley, of Karen, Nairobi, Kenya, and Katherine, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Robin Eiden-Dew, of March House, Tadworth, Surrey.

**Mr T.W.L. Hyde and Miss I. Gunn**  
The engagement is announced between Tom, eldest son of Mr and Mrs N.R. Hyde, of Compston, Somerset, and Ingrid, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs I.H. Gunn, of Kensington, London.

**Mr S.C. Knight and Miss C.A. Marchant**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Wing Commander and Mrs B.C. Pratt, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, and Catriona, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs K.J. Marchant, of Normandy, Guildford.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 24: The Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended a Performance of Music and Drama in aid of the Danish Church, St Katharine's Precinct, Regents Park, London NW1.

Miss Suzanne Marland was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
February 24: The Duke of Kent was represented by Colonel Ian Cartwright at the Memorial Service for Lieutenant General Sir George Lea which was held at St Peter ad Vincula, HM Tower of London, today.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Carol Goldoni, dramatist, Venice, 1707; Pierre Renoir, Impressionist painter, Limoges, France, 1841; Enrico Caruso, tenor, Naples, 1873; Dame Myra Hess, pianist, London, 1890.

**DEATHS:** Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex, soldier and courtier, executed, London, 1601; Albrecht von Wallenstein, soldier and statesman, assassinated, Eger, Germany, 1634; Sir Christopher Wren, London, 1723; William Buchan, physician, London, 1803; Thomas Moore, poet, Bromham, Wiltshire, 1852; George Don, naturalist, London, 1856; Paul Julius Reuter, founder of the news agency, Nice, 1899; Sir John Tenniel, illustrator and cartoonist, London, 1914; George Minot, physician, Nobel laureate, 1934; Brookline, Massachusetts, 1936; Alexander Archipenko, sculptor, New York, 1964; Mark Rothko, painter, New York, 1970; Tennessee Williams, playwright, 1983.

Andrew Johnson, 17th president of the USA, 1865-69, was impeached (acquitted in May) 1868.

## Memorial services

Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, who died on February 23, 1990, was represented by Colonel I.R. Cartwright at a memorial service for Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea held yesterday in the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, HM Tower of London. The Rev Robert Gould officiated and General Sir John Hackett read the lesson.

Miss Annabel Lea, daughter, and The Reverend and Miss Georgina Lea, daughter, from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland. Viscount Slim gave an address. The Colonel of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was represented by Lieutenant-General Sir James Wilson. Professor John Harley, Vice-Chancellor and Proctor of Oxford University, attended a memorial service for Professor John Harley held on Saturday at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. The Rev T.J. Corrigan, Chaplain to St John's College, officiated and Dr John Kelly read the lesson. Sir David Smith, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, gave an address.

## Lady Wheeler

A memorial service for Lady (Margaret Mortimer) Wheeler will be held at The Brompton Crematorium, Knightsbridge, London, SW7, on Wednesday, March 6, at 4 pm.

## OBITUARIES

## TIM O'LEARY

Timothy O'Leary, OBE, formerly national docks secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, died on February 15, aged 81. He was born on January 11, 1910.

TIM O'Leary led Britain's docks as their national docks secretary through a period of exceptional turbulence for the industry. Faced with unofficial strikes fostered by militants, he saw it as his role to persuade dockers to return to work. He was by nature a moderate and his quiet but persistent negotiating manner gained for them better conditions than any other union official was able to do before or since.

Yet he was never one of the more popular trade union officials of his time, nor was he as forceful or aggressive as others. He was once described as having the appearance of a man in whom the priesthood missed a likely candidate. His greatest satisfaction was in the fact that he had been a man in whom the priesthood missed a likely candidate. His greatest satisfaction was in the fact that he had been a man in whom the priesthood missed a likely candidate.

The change heralded a new era for the docks industry. But from the dockers' point of view it came too late and was quickly overtaken by containerisation, which led to a great shrinkage of the number of dockers needed. O'Leary also negotiated the



first pension and sick-pay schemes for dockers and a 40-hour week.

Timothy O'Leary was born in Wapping, east London, and was one of nine children. Both his father and grandfather were dockers and the O'Leary family had been one of the best known in the Port of London since the turn of the century. It was only natural, therefore, that he should become a docker too. He took an early interest in trade union affairs, carefully reading and interpreting every new agreement and rulebook in-

troductory. Men on the quayside frequently consulted their young colleague when disputes arose and it was not surprising when he was selected to become the Transport and General Workers' Union's youngest officer at the age of 25 in 1935.

Ernest Bevin influenced him most in his early years, and he always remembered their first encounter. "Do you know what sort of job you have?" asked Bevin. O'Leary answered for him: "It's 24 hours a day; seven days a week."

He realised how true this was the more he became involved in the big docks issues after being appointed national docks secretary in 1956. This was a traumatic time for the docks industry and the union, whose job was made more difficult - particularly in the early Sixties - by the presence of unofficial committees led by Jack Dash who were inclined to call strikes at a moment's notice. It was O'Leary's job to try to get the men back to work, with the unofficial committees, who had big followings in the docks, providing more difficulties for him than the employers.

At least, though, decasualisation led to the demise of the unofficial movement and with the election of shop stewards operating within the union framework, O'Leary at last had more control over events. But more storm clouds were looming. Containerisation gained momentum faster than anybody had anticipated, and the new problem the industry had to contend with was too many dockers for too few jobs. O'Leary negotiated a generous voluntary severance agreement to cope with this and by the time he retired in 1975 the number of men employed in the docks had fallen from 72,000 in 1967 to 45,000. He was appointed OBE shortly before he retired.

O'Leary was a dedicated Roman Catholic and spartan as far as food and drink were concerned. Lunch was usually a little fruit in his modest office in Transport House. He was not a political animal, although he was a lifelong member of the Labour party. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and daughter.

## ALEC BADENOCH

Alec William Badenoch, surgeon, died on February 16, aged 87. He was born on June 23, 1903.

HAROLD Macmillan's prostate operation in 1963 fortuitously brought about a change of premiership and also enabled him to enjoy a further 20 years of active life. The surgeon was Alec Badenoch, whose practice also encompassed three other British prime ministers whose names cannot be revealed for reasons of medical confidentiality. Several heads of state were also his patients, but he was known for showing the same kindness and surgical skill towards anyone he treated. He was internationally recognised as a leading urologist, and his pioneering work included the foundation of the department of urology at St Bartholomew's hospital, London.

Alec Badenoch was born in Banff, went to Banff Academy and read medicine at Marischal College, Aberdeen, but first studied for an MA in English literature. In 1935, having established that his main interest lay in urology, he became resident surgical officer at St Peter's Hospital for Stone, Covent Garden, the world's oldest urological hospital. Three years later he became consultant surgeon to the Metropolitan hospital, London, but being in

the RAFVR was called up in 1939, which gave him the opportunity during the war of developing further urological skills.

These served him in good stead when he joined the permanent surgical staff of St Bartholomew's hospital and of St Peter's Hospital for Stone. Harold Macmillan, who was to become the first Earl of Stockton, was later in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers, to which Badenoch was also appointed. As a visiting urologist to the Samaritan Hospital for Women, London, he developed expertise in dealing with urinary tract complications as a result of gynaecological surgery.

As urology evolved as a specialty from surgery in general, Badenoch established his high reputation in this country and abroad, not least as a retropubic prostatectomy, producing a safe and effective procedure. He was also known as a humane doctor. His interest covered stone disease, bladder and testicular cancer and embraced the surgery of difficult urethral strictures. The result was the publication in 1950 of the *Pull Through Operation in Traumatic Impassable Urethral Stricture*. He wrote a textbook, *Manual of Urology*, which became a standard work and was revised and reprinted in 1974. His surgical skill was governed by his first class judge-

ment, and the standards he set acted as a benchmark for later generations of urologists, whose enthusiasm he encouraged.

His reputation abroad was reflected in his wide travelling, being an active member of the International Society of Urology to which he was the British delegate. He was a co-founder of the European Association of Urology and enjoyed a lively involvement as a member of both the American Urological Association and of the American Association of Genito Urinary Surgeons. Badenoch became visiting professor of urology in Dallas, Texas, in 1967 and in Cairo in 1962. He was honoured in his own country becoming president of the British Association of Urological Surgeons in 1968-9. He was awarded a Hunterian professorship in the Royal College of Surgeons and in 1974 the St Peter's Medal of the BAUS. He was the first urologist to become a patron of the Royal College of Surgeons, having served on its council.

He continued in private practice for several years after retiring from the National Health Service. He is survived by his widow, Jean, and the two youngest of his three sons. His youngest son, David, is a consultant urologist on the staff of the Royal London hospital.

## Hazhir Teimourian

## Political Islam, religious Islam

POPULAR Muslim reaction to the waging of war on Iraq by the United Nations coalition has reinforced the belief of many people here in the West that the whole of the world of Islam is the enemy.

Since the beginning of hostilities, and particularly since the American bombing of the air raid shelter/military command bunker in Baghdad, we have regularly watched Muslim demonstrators in the Middle East shouting hate-filled slogans against Europeans and, here in the heartland of Europeanism itself, Muslim settlers have displayed remarkable unity in opposing the war, as if none could see any merit in anything the West could ever do or say against any Islamic government.

On this side of the divide, serious columnists, who are normally wary of indulging in generalisations, have spoken of the incompatibility of Islam with democracy, and the tabloid press has resorted to its usual catchphrases against Saddam that are immediately interpreted by Muslims as insulting to the whole of their kind. If the hitherto moderate King Hussein of Jordan joins the radicals and claims that the West is out to destroy Islam, what may we expect of lesser educated men?

The hope must be that the seemingly total polarisation is more apparent than real. The world is now too small for big blocks of neighbouring populations to live together in perpetual hatred without their coming to blows sooner or later. Perhaps there is an element of posturing to the accusations of genocide being levelled at the West.

Some will also hope that once the passion of the present crisis has subsided, sentiments will, on both sides, become less extreme. This hope may very well not be disappointed, but it is not easy to be optimistic in the longer term. It would seem that the backing of most Islamic societies for Saddam Hussein is an outcrop of a deeper bedrock of alienation from the present

hierarchy in the world. How else could we explain that the new hero of both Muslim activists and Arab nationalists is one of the least admirable characters in the history of Islam?

Is he not the same Saddam Hussein who used poison gas on the Kurdish town of Halabja in March 1988 to kill an estimated 6,000 Muslim civilians in a single afternoon? Did not Muslim activists denounce him as "the Zionist agent" for launching the first Gulf war on Iraq in 1980, which may have cost a million Muslim lives? One might have expected the bulk of Muslims and Arabs to greet the current attempt at diminishing or removing him as a great service to their brethren in the Persian Gulf region.

Such a reaction would not only prove that the Muslims truly care about the suffering of their co-religionists. It would have also been a small first step towards friendlier relations between Muslims and the rest of humanity.

But this was never a possibility. After Halabja, which killed some 20 times as many people as the Baghdad bombing, the governments, for example, of Kuwait and Jordan united in launching a diplomatic offensive to press Western governments not to impose trade restrictions on Iraq, and in the whole of the Arab world not a single demonstration was held to denounce the culprits.

Unfortunately, when it comes to one of their own, the Arabs' moral judgment is clearly selective, and unwise. Why should this be?

The answer is not difficult to find. It is vain to look for collective wisdom in societies where the average age is between 15 and 18. The population of the Islamic world is doubling in size approximately every 19 years. In the case of Jordan, which has the worst population explosion of all at 4 per cent a year, it takes only 16 years for the population to double itself.

The combination of this unprecedented growth and the Palestinian

## CECIL CLUTTON

Cecil Clutton, CBE, horologist, organist, vintage car enthusiast and chartered surveyor, died on February 7, aged 81. He was born on September 16, 1909.

CECIL (Sam) Clutton's love of the motor car began at the age of five when, if he behaved, he was allowed to pull the lever that replenished the oil tubes of his father's Daimler. With his father, Lieutenant-Colonel John Clutton, he was a founder member of the Vintage Sports Car Club in 1934, driving a Frazer Nash. He was president in 1954-6. He was competitions secretary for many years and also the provocative and challenging editor of the club's bulletin.

His personal cars included two Bugattis but his principal mount, from its purchase in 1935 for £30, was the giant 1908 GP Italia, which he drove in short circuit races, sprints and hill climbs for 55 years, his last appearance being in the Isle of Man in September of last year.

He also raced his 1923 land speed record Delage until it blew up, spectacularly and at speed, on the Silverstone club straight in 1952. A second explosion of flame in the cockpit forced Clutton to retreat to the tail where, to avoid the spectators, he sat astride, steering with his feet until the car came to rest in the ditch at Woodcote. Several weeks in hospital did not deter him from the track or from leisure enjoyment that included a Brough Superior motor cycle from which he took several more tumbles until, on his 75th birthday, he persuaded himself that it was time to give it up.

He learned to fly in the RAF during the second world war and was employed as a pilot ferrying Wellington bombers. After the war he joined the Tiger Club and practised aerobics in a Tiger Moth. When he was no longer able to complete the required number of flying hours to maintain a licence he, nothing daunted, took to microflights which he flew until he was 75.

His other consuming interests were keyboard instruments and horology, and he was an internationally recognised authority on both subjects. His work in the fields of organ history, restoration and design, and the specialised knowledge that he imparted to others, led to significant changes in views on organ construction and restoration. His advice was sought by a number of church and secular bodies and he played a major part in the restoration or rebuilding of several organs, including that in St Paul's Cathedral.

In joint authorship with Austin Niland, the pioneering and definitive work *The British Organ* was written in 1963. He contributed the article on the organ in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and gave a series of BBC broadcasts on historic organs, accompanied by music that he played on the instruments in question. His work was recognised by honorary membership of the Royal College of Organists.

In horology, Clutton was a founder member of the Antiquarian Horological Society. He wrote many papers for the

society, principally concerned with development of the precision timekeeper, but he was equally adept in covering the subject back to its earliest known beginnings. As a collector of watches he had the curious belief that a collection should consist of only 12 pieces, so that for each new acquisition something had to go.

He was a liverman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and master in 1973. From 1956, in collaboration with his revered friends the late G.H. Baillie and C.A. Ilbert, he re-wrote Britain's *Old Clocks and Watches and their Makers* and from 1973, as sole editor, he produced the eighth and, in 1982, the ninth editions. This book, clearly illustrating his definitive views on the subject of the general history of the clock and watch. His other major work, as co-author with George Daniels, *Watches*, is now published in three languages and is accepted as a standard work on the subject.

In his professional career as a chartered surveyor, and in his time as senior partner of Cluttons where he was a sixth



Cecil Clutton from a portrait by John Hughes-Hallett

generation member of the surveying family, he was for many years responsible to both the Crown Estate and the Church Commissioners for the management and development of extensive estates in and around London, for which work he was appointed CBE in 1968. His interests included planning, in which he was an expert witness of considerable perception and skill, and the care of historic buildings, which led him to active participation in amenity societies.

Clutton was a bachelor, mildly and amusingly eccentric, and with a sharp ready wit when occasion demanded. He was always generous with his time and knowledge, encouraging young interest. Many people owe their initial success to his recognition of their latent ability and his continuing interest in advancing their careers.

On the day of his death he attended an exhibition of Breguet watches and then went to St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, on organ business, where he died of a heart attack.

## Nature notes

REED buntings are singing again in their breeding territories: two or three harsh notes, followed by the sound of a tinkling bell. They are most often seen on top of a tall reed among the white, flattened dead reeds.

Male hedge sparrows are engaged in song duels: they have a thin scold, but deliver it with vigour. Although they compete like this now, later in the season two males will often share a single mate, and both of them will feed her young in the nest.

Long-tailed tit flocks broke up after the cold spell, and the newly-formed pairs are already prospecting for nest sites in cypresses and gorse bushes. They mutter sharply as they flit through the foliage. Starlings are singing near their future nesting holes: they are future imitators, and if a partridge is heard calling on a farmhouse roof, it is certain to be a starling.

On birch trees, the catkins are still hard and brown; but among the swaying hazel catkins, some leaf-buds are already turning plump and green: they look like tiny globe arctichokes. On hedge banks there are thick carpets of lesser celandine.

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# Give the dog a desk job

Although banned at Westminster, man's best friend still finds a place in the office

WHEN Tony Fitzpatrick recently changed jobs, he insisted that it be written into his contract that his King Charles spaniel, Charlie, accompany him to work each day. His future employers were initially startled, "because it had never been done before, and they were concerned about what would happen if Charlie bit a client," says Mr Fitzpatrick, the managing director of a London public relations firm.

After a week in the job, however, Charlie has proved herself a valuable asset to office life. "The reality is that she is a very important part of my life," Mr Fitzpatrick says. "A dog brings humanity back into an office, has a very calming influence, and reminds you, through the day, that there is life going on outside."

This potential benefit has clearly been overlooked by the House of Commons services committee, which has decided to ban dogs from the Palace of Westminster. The only exception is Offa, the guide dog of David Blunkett, the Labour MP.

The decision to outlaw the other 17 dogs that regularly spend their weekdays in the House is regarded by one expert as damaging to both dogs and owners. "Apart from the advantages to the animals, who are social creatures, dogs at work can become a nice focus for friendship formation and a good source of light-hearted tension relief," says Dr Roger Mugford, Britain's leading consultant in animal behaviour, who regards dogs in offices as a lot less dangerous and antisocial than smoking.

Certainly, the people who take their dogs to work extol the benefits of having their best friend under the desk. John Warren, a travel publisher whose "mainly Labrador with a bit of collie", Holly, has been accompanying him to his office for the past four

years, says: "Very often, if someone is having a stressful phone call they will slam down the receiver and call Holly over for a quick fondle. They volunteer to take her out for walks because they like to have a little stroll in the fresh air." His staff have nicknamed Holly "Enzyme" because "she produces enzymes in the body that calm you down".

That has also been the experience of Jim Dunn, the chairman of a company that specialises in travel and leisure publicity. He finds that his two Labradors, Wendy and Tinker, "create a homely, civilised office environment. They just seem to take a lot of the tension out of the office."

The fact that both he and Mr Warren run their own businesses is clearly an advantage. Dr Dunn says he would have no objection if any of his staff of 50 wanted to bring a dog to work, but adds: "We would have to be careful we didn't have them all over the place."

In the City, however, dogs barely get a sniff in. "The whole idea is preposterous," a spokesman for Lloyd's of London says. "Where would we put these beasts?" The attitude of the Bank of England is much the same. According to a spokesman, "the only non-human animal life around the place at the moment are mice", although the bank kept cats in the "dim and distant past".

While dog lovers applaud the appearance of canines on the working scene, others object to them on the grounds of hygiene, health and other generally unspecified hazards. Dr Mugford admits that he finds his patients increasingly include office dogs that "zap the dispatch rider or yap every time the telephone rings". He can treat both idiosyncrasies, for an average of £75.

SALLY BROMPTON



Couch canine: Dr Roger Mugford consults a "patient"



Happy family: Lord Rea's mother Betty (left) on a summer outing in 1963, with her lover, Fran, and her grandchildren, Lord Rea's eldest sons, then aged seven and five

## Brought up with unusual love

Baron Rea surprised the House of Lords by revealing that his parents were lesbians. But, he tells Dean Nelson, his childhood was happy

A part from the fact that he is a baron, there is nothing unusual about Nicolas Rea; he is a doctor, and an unassuming father of five. Which may explain why there was an aristocratic gasp when he told his fellow peers that his parents were lesbians.

His declaration came during a House of Lords debate on whether gays should be allowed to adopt and foster children, and some of his colleagues were so surprised they thought the 62-year-old Labour peer must have been mistaken.

"May I suggest the noble Lord, while rambling over many curious and peculiar arrangements which I did not understand, none the less was at times confusing friendship with homosexuality," asked a perplexed Lord Myners. Lord Rea was certainly not mistaken. His mother and father separated when he was six, and from the age of nine until he left home he was raised by his mother and her lifelong lesbian partner.

Next month the government will complete guidelines for fostering and adoption which will rule out whether gays will be excluded. The present draft states: "The chosen way of life of some adults may mean they are not able to provide a suitable environment for the care and nurture of a child... equal rights and gay rights policies have no place in fostering services."

Lord Rea finds the implication that homosexual men and women cannot be good parents personally offensive. "I think the objection to couples living in a homosexual relationship looking after children is entirely governed by bias and anti-gay prejudice. There is no basis for it. If it is a stable relationship and they want to bring up kids, then they should be

vetted for stability and emotional warmth, in the same way as any heterosexual couple."

His mother's and father's marriage had not been a success. His father, the Hon. James Rea, had alcohol problems and his mother, Betty Bevan, a sculptor, had a contempt for men which dated from when her father disapproved her because of her left-wing views. She considered men "hypocritical and bombastic, but babes underneath", Lord Rea says.

There were quarrels and Lord Rea remembers being "not very happy" when he was four or five years old. "They split up because of their incompatibility, but I did not realise it was sexual incompatibility. I did not realise how bad things were between my mother and father, but the mood spilled over. There was a lack of good spirit," he says.

His parents separated in 1935, and his mother took Nicolas and his younger brother, Julian, from their father's house in Notting Hill Gate, west London, to live in a rented flat elsewhere in the city. Eventually, she settled down with Fran (not her real name), an artist who was to be her lifelong partner and her sons' female "father".

There were few changes in family rules, but there was a significant difference in mood. Family life lightened, there was more fun, and the fact that his mother and Fran had a better relationship than that of his mother and father affected the whole family atmosphere.

"My mother continued to take the role of cook and homemaker, and Fran, at least on the surface, wore the trousers," he says. When

he and his brother misbehaved their mother would threaten them with Fran's temper. "My mother would often say 'Don't do that, because Fran will be furious'. Fran was rarely furious, but it had quite an effect on us," says Lord Rea.

He never questioned his mother's authority or their relationship. "Fran was an established fact by the time I came back from boarding school for end of term, and my brother already had a relationship with her. I was a mild person, I was for the easiest life. I would sense an atmosphere and if it was basically to my liking, then I would go along with it."

"There was a lot of experimental living going on in the Thirties, and I was very inclined just to accept what was. We really found Fran a sympathetic person with a good sense of humour. They had a nice relationship and

myself and my brother had a nice time as children," he says.

But it was not until he was a teenager that he realised his mother and Fran were anything more than friends. Their relationship began in an age of innocence. People accepted them as companions, friends, and the subject of lesbianism rarely arose.

"I knew they shared a bedroom, but as a child I did not think that meant a sexual relationship," Lord Rea says.

His schoolfriends and teachers knew his parents had separated and that his mother lived with another woman, but Lord Rea says he cannot remember an example of being ribbed at school or being the victim of gossip.

"I don't think people realised that there was such a thing as two lesbians living together and, if there was, it was something of a curiosity rather than something to be denigrated. It was a blissful ignorance and a case of people not putting two and two together," he says.

Though his mother and Fran gave each other the occasional affectionate hug, they were discreet, he says, and did not make a display of their sexuality. Sex, however, was not a taboo subject. Indeed, there were few taboos in their household; for example, nudity was considered natural.

But, like most children, his sex education came at school, in his case Dartington Hall, a progressive boarding school. Lord Rea says he never thought he might be homosexual himself, and was disappointed when he was later sent to an all-boys school.

At home, life was not Utopian. His mother and Fran sometimes

argued, and the children often sided against their mother's "unreasonable and emotional" outbursts. He was angry when his mother sent him to stay with friends in the United States during the war.

Lord Rea describes his father as a man of very great charm whom he loved. He feels his mother unfairly denigrated him. "But I do not think that would have been any different if my mother and father had stayed together. It may have been worse, because she would have managed to expose him more. He would have been victimised," he says. "I sometimes think I missed having a strong father, being able to make decisions and have feelings of confidence. But these things don't necessarily come through having a strong father. Many people do not have them."

His father committed suicide in 1952 after his second wife died. Lord Rea became the third Baron Rea of Eskdale on the death of his uncle, the eldest son of the first baron, whose own son had died at the age of nine.

Lord Rea says his childhood with his lesbian parents was happier than with his unhappy mother and father. His mother died in 1965, but Fran, now in her eighties, is still alive. He says he has tried to emulate with his own children the way they brought him up, and he believes many homosexual couples could provide loving, stable homes for children.

"A well adjusted, properly motivated lesbian couple could make an excellent home for children," he says, "as long as the children are allowed to develop their own sexual orientation."

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Lord Rea  
*'A lesbian couple could make an excellent home for children'*

## The smallest part of a hearty diet.

### Heart maintenance

Enjoying a long and active life depends on keeping the heart and circulation healthy. Happily, research is now showing us a number of ways in which we could really help ourselves:

1. Eat less fat - more fibre
2. Take more exercise
3. Stop smoking and...
4. Start taking garlic

### Why garlic?

We now know that it is important for the health of the heart that we maintain our blood fats and cholesterol at the correct levels. Recent scientific studies suggest that taking garlic regularly could help us keep these levels normal.

### Nature's little joke

The best garlic for you (but not for your breath!) is raw garlic. It provides a substance called allicin which has important benefits but is also very smelly. You can't have one without the other. Unfortunately garlic oil products use boiled garlic and contain little or no allicin. So what can you do?

### KWAI Garlic

Kwai guarantees a high amount of natural allicin producing substances in every little easily swallowed tablet of concentrated garlic.

The richest source of allicin is organically grown Chinese garlic. Kwai always selects the highest grade, whole Chinese garlic cloves



Try the Kwai bite test.

from the same fertile province. Then they are carefully dried in a special process which just takes out water and nothing else. So Kwai is the nearest thing to raw, fresh garlic; in a convenient tablet form. Unlike garlic oil capsules, Kwai contains no gelatine and no vegetable oil.

### Odour controlled

If Kwai is so potent, why can't you smell it or taste it? (25% of current users were recommended Kwai by their friends!)

This is because Kwai doesn't produce its allicin until the special coating dissolves in your digestive system.

### Three times a day

Research has shown that it's best to spread your intake of garlic across the day. Taking it once a day, even a large amount, seems in some important ways to lose its effectiveness after a short time. And not taking Kwai's concentrated garlic all at once, helps to make sure it doesn't make you smell.

So just take two tablets with each meal and stay fragrant.

### £6 million heart research

Like you, Kwai cares about your health and has so far

invested over £6 million in research studies to confirm what has been suspected for centuries - that garlic could help keep the heart healthy. No other company has. Kwai is unique.

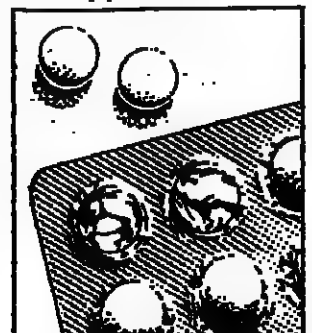
### No.1 in Europe

Kwai is now Europe's No.1 non-prescription health brand and over 1 million people use it every day. Kwai is the ideal way to take garlic which could help maintain a healthy heart and circulation. That's why nine out of ten people who try Kwai, stay with Kwai.

Kwai is available throughout Great Britain from Boots, chemists, Superdrug, Holland and Barrett and other health food outlets.

### New to Boots

Selected Boots stores are now stocking the 200 tablet economy pack.



**Kwai®**

Highly Concentrated Garlic Tablets. The Spice of Life!

## Once upon a bedtime

When *Jackanory*, the BBC's story-telling institution, began in 1966, it was designed to ease the burden of keeping children entertained for the growing number of working mothers. As the series celebrates its silver jubilee this week, parents might consider whether the profession of television and cassette stories that have followed in its wake are such a boon. For the working parents of the Nineties, the bedtime story could be the best part of the day with their children, but many lack the confidence to compete with professionally produced favourites, and would not dream of making up their own.

Liz Weir, a senior librarian in Belfast, has recently produced a video aimed at parents and teachers who feel they need advice on reading stories. The video, and the workshops she runs locally, are intended for those who were not themselves read to as children, and so do not read to their own children today. "Parents have lost the habit of reading aloud to their offspring, rather than the art," says Mrs Weir, who regularly reads to her nine-year-old son. "They need to develop confidence."

At Mrs Weir's workshops, confidence is promoted by simple exercises such as telling the person next to you about your journey to the class. Other tips emerge: "Choose a story that you like: your enthusiasm, or lack of it, will impart itself to the listener. Go for simple, clear and even repetitive language. Let yourself go, and put on silly voices in the privacy of your own home. It's easier than you think, and children love it."

Watching the television performers should help. Floella Benjamin, mother of two and presenter of *Play-*

*Has Jackanory, 25 years old this week, killed the art of story-telling for parents?*

about on Sky television, says: "I hope to help parents to tell stories themselves, and not use the programme as a cop-out. Many have lost the art of reading aloud, but the willingness is still there. They just don't know how to do it." The answer lies in being conscious of your audience, she says. "Get excited by the joy in your child's eyes. The British are

*'The British are too scared of making fools of themselves'*

too scared of making fools of themselves; when people meet me, they say 'We'd love to do what you do, but we're too embarrassed'."

Making up stories or reading them can be the best way of improving your child's reading, says Betty Root, who recently retired as the director of the reading centre within Reading university. "Reading problems have less to do with the teaching methods, and more to do with having lost the joy of being read to," she says. "I bet that if you went into a classroom and enquired who had had a bedtime story the previous night, only 20 per cent would raise their hands."

Mrs Root's remedial tips include choosing books

"which flow. I used to loathe Rupert Bear, because they didn't always do that. Use the chance to rediscover your own childhood through favourites such as Alison Uttley. It will make you sparkle, and that's catching."

Physical closeness is also important. "If you sit a child on your knee with your arm around him, it brings both you and the story closer," Mrs Root says.

One regular *Jackanory* favourite, Bernard Cribbins (98 appearances to date, not including the forthcoming silver jubilee week), also has reading tips for parents. "It's not always necessary to get the words in the right order, providing you pause in the right places."

As a popular narrator on story-book tapes (a thriving industry), Cribbins is understandably reluctant to criticise them as an alternative to the real thing. "They probably have rather taken over the house nowadays. I know children who go to bed while Paddington Bear is running next to them," he says. "But I don't think it matters, because at least that child is listening to a story."

Those parents who cannot emulate the colourful performances of the professionals should not despair. John Woodvine, another *Jackanory* narrator, insists children do not want an acted performance. "A child can be put off by an over-pushy reader making too many nasty faces," he says. "It can make those old-fashioned tales such as *Red Riding Hood* seem so scary, with all those bad examples of going off with strangers, that one questions whether actually to read them."

JANE BIDDER

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**Why do some children go under when things are difficult and others come through stronger?**

Professor Michael Rutter, child psychiatrist and author of the seminal work *15,000 hours*, talks to *The TES* this Friday

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT







FILM FESTIVAL: BERLIN

# Infernal triangle creates triumph fair and square

The 41 years of the Berlin Film Festival have seen a lot of history. The festival was itself created as a Cold War propaganda weapon. In the pervading austerity of 1952, it provided a defiant glimmer of glamour to tease the people on the other side of the border that was soon to become the Wall. It was, at first, strictly a Western alliance event. Not until 1974 were films from the socialist bloc admitted to Berlin.

Last year, with the Wall breached, there was a determined effort to spread the festival events to the East. This year there is less enthusiasm. With the city united and the old allure of a forbidden zone gone, West Berliners tend to view the eastern districts just as less attractive suburbs. The festival still belongs very much to what was West Berlin.

Given the precarious state of our own cinema, British films have made a brave show this year. One of two official British competition entries (Bruce Beresford's *Mr Johnson* is still to be seen), *The Ballad of the Sad Café* marks a remarkable directorial debut by the actor Simon Callow. The film achieves a dynamic visual style of its own while staying faithful to every small gesture of Carson McCullers' classic novella: the wretched Southern town looks like something from dustbowl photographs by Walker Evans or Ben Shahn, and the tale of frustrated love that turns to cankerous hatred has the rawness of ballad-epic.

Vanessa Redgrave is nothing less than astounding as the fierce, maniacal, gawky Miss Amelia, with cropped hair and sun-baked face. Keith Carradine is her vengeful ex-husband, and the remarkable Cork Hubbert the malevolent, infantile hunchback dwarf who completes the infernal triangle.

British films also figure in the non-competitive sections. Derek Jarman is a perennial Berlin

**David Robinson on a festival notable for its British successes, social documentaries and non-appearance by Western directors**

favourite, and *The Garden* was rapturously received in the Young Film Forum. In *Life is Sweet*, Mike Leigh continues his exploration of English suburbia. The incomparable Alison Steadman plays the matriarch of a family as messed up, ridiculous, tragic and brave as most. Leigh works with the stuff of popular comedy, and proves again with this film that it is often the most local, not to say parochial, themes that find the most immediate response in audiences of very different cultures. Berlin certainly loved it.

Ron Peck's *Strip Jack Naked* is a collage that uses many out-takes from his pioneer "coming-out" film, *Nighthawks*, made nearly 20 years ago. The new film is a moving and more frankly autobiographical record of the changing problems of being homosexual in Britain from the Sixties to the Aids-haunted Nineties.

Neighbouring Ireland competes with Neil Jordan's *The Miracle*, an Oedipal yarn about a boy who unknowingly falls for his long-lost mother. The thin story is only a vehicle for the distinctive Jordan mix of whimsical-surreal spectacle, complete with circus, elephants, tigers, a hall of mirrors and a musical production of *Desire Rides Again*. The best part of the film is the playing of two young non-professionals, Niall Byrne and Lorraine Pilkington, who both succeed in speaking Jordan's book-

ish, ping-pong dialogue as if it were real life.

Other competitors have disappointed expectations. Kjell Grede's long-awaited *Good Evening, Mr Wallenberg* is confused and tedious, with a soulfully characterless Raoul Wallenberg and fascist horrors in familiar movie-cliché style. A Russian investigative documentary, Alexander Rodnianski's *The Mission of Raoul Wallenberg*, is much more revealing.

Claude Berri's *Uranus*, France's latest box-office hit, adapts Marcel Aymé's 1948 novel about post-war guilt and recommitments in a French village. Exhibitionist performances are led by a larger-than-life Gerard Depardieu as the local bar-owner poet.

From Italy, Ricky Tognazzi's *Ultrà* deals with a modern nightmare — football hooligans on the rampage. Slickly made, driven on by a heavy-metal score, and unconcerned with the causes of this 20th-century tribal warfare, it could have a dangerous appeal for the very people it portrays.

With a dearth of good dramatic features, documentary film-makers are to the fore, analysing the traumas of history. In *Nikita*, *The Elements of War*, the Finnish Marjatta Mykkanen uses rare archive material and new interviews to reveal why old clown Krushchev's play in the Cuban missile crisis.

Jürgen Böttger's *Die Mauer* is an impressionistic study, without commentary, of human reactions to the breaching of the Berlin Wall. For *Berlin-Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse* 1990, a group of women directors captured, just as it was disappearing, the Kafkaesque microcosm at the border crossing.

From America, Jennie Livingston's *Paris is Burning* is outstanding: a warm, funny, and study of the



Vanessa Redgrave nothing less than astounding as the fierce Miss Amelia in *The Ballad of the Sad Café*

costume balls which provide outlet and fulfilment for seriously underprivileged black New York homosexuals.

Predictably, the Gulf War has drastically reduced visitors from the United States. Kevin Costner

was not on hand for *Dances With Wolves*, though Francis Coppola and family were much in evidence in support of *Godfather III*, shown out of competition.

The undisputed star of the year, however, also comes from Holly-

wood. The legendary Jane Russell, still reassuringly recognisable at 70, is disarming about Berlin's retrospective celebration of her career. "The films are mostly terrible. They were only interested in my body anyway."

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

## Grandeur on an epic scale

Bruckner: Symphony No 3 Vienna PO/Harink, Philips 422 411-2 (compact disc).  
Brahms: Symphony No 1 Chicago SO/Wand, BMG RCA Victor Red Seal RD60428 (compact disc).

VAST organisms both, Brahms's First Symphony and Bruckner's Third, Symphony are yet utterly different animals, though they were first performed within a year of each other, the Brahms in 1876 and the Bruckner in 1877.

Bernard Haitink's vision of the Bruckner, with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, captures with due splendour all the symphony's epic qualities. In Bruckner the distinctive melodic shape often matters less than the effect of texture, colour and, most importantly perhaps, scale. An overall feeling of the awesome massiveness of nature is this composer's aim, and thus it is solid statement which lies at the heart of his music, and particularly this understated piece, rather than a real sense of organic development.

That even applies to the rich slow movement, for all its achingly expressive, arching phrases, and to the *moto perpetuo* of the Scherzo. As befits such music, Haitink's approach is to relax and allow the work to assert itself, unfolding at its own, natural pace. One often-aided criticism of the piece, whatever version is played (this is the music as heard in 1877 rather than the still later revision), is that it reaches climaxes too readily. In this polished performance such processes seem perfectly natural.

Günter Wand's recording of Brahms's First Symphony, taken from a live performance, comes packaged with a profile of the famously modest conductor instead of proper programme notes. Surely this is a mistake which will dissuade any potential purchaser who might not be familiar with the work.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra predictably has a slightly harsher edge to it than the Viennese, but that Wand encourages. The atmosphere of tension and spontaneity, an important point in this recording's favour, particularly in so momentous and serious a work, is yet coupled with a sense that every nuance has been carefully considered. Indeed it has: Wand insisted on an extravagant amount of rehearsal time.

The quality of the recording shows the disadvantages of taking microphones into concert halls populated with large audiences. However, those are far outweighed by the simple, eloquent sureness and shapeliness of Wand's reading and the sense that a real, unmanufactured event is unfolding, as it were, before your very ears.

STEPHEN PETTIT

ROCK

## Rolling into discord with a single song

Mick Jagger talks to Steve Turner about the criticism he faces over the Rolling Stones' new single about the Gulf war



Jagger insists that "the chorus voices the concern I have for our troops that the war will not be long"

With the release next month of the song "High Wire", the Rolling Stones will become the first big rock act to refer directly to the Gulf war in a single. But such is the sensitivity of the subject that even though nobody has heard the record yet, an attack on its contents has already begun.

Recorded last month in London, the single will go on sale on March 4, but samples of the lyric ("We got no pride, don't care whose boots we lick/we act so greedy, makes me sick, sick, sick") have drawn criticism from some Tory MPs. They have also caused jitters among radio controllers who fear being branded as insensitive to servicemen's families if they give it airtime, and as enemies of free speech if they do not.

While certain irate Conservative politicians have called for the record to be banned, the BBC is taking a more measured response. "When it's released, it will be judged, like all other records, on its musical merits," says a spokeswoman for Radio 1.

"But Radio 1 realises it's got a lot of servicemen's families among its listeners and it's very sensitive to what it plays because of that." Although the station does not actually ban records, the spokeswoman says "it's up to individual DJs and producers to use their discretion and

sensitivity as to what they play. Obviously they won't play things that will offend people."

The lyrics were written by Mick Jagger, who believes the song, which is primarily a condemnation of arms trading to the Middle East during the Seventies and Eighties, presents what he considers to be a "relatively balanced view" of the conflict. Speaking about the "High Wire" debate for the first time, the Rolling Stones lead singer says he has "every respect for those who have to go down and clean up the mess".

"There are the total pacifists who disagree with war at any cost, and there are the gun-bo militarists who love the idea of battle," he says, speaking from the set of the film *Freejack* in Atlanta, Georgia. "In between lies almost everyone else. I'm right in the middle and I try to present a pretty balanced view."

The opening verse of the song ("We sell ten missiles, we sell ten tanks/we give ten credits, you can call up the bank") targets the arms dealers while the chorus ("We walk the high wire, sending the men to the front line/hoping they don't catch the hell fire/of hot guns and cold,

cold, nights") imagines the fears of the ground troops.

"In the first part of the song I'm criticising the situation that has led up to this inextricable war," explains Jagger. "The scale of the war is because of the past 20 years of high-tech sales from the West and Soviet Union."

"One MP said it would have been better if I had attacked German arms dealers but I'm

*"I have as much right to comment on the war as a leader writer on a newspaper. It just happens that my main medium of expression is song"*

not only speaking from a United Kingdom point of view, because this record will be released around the world. Anyway, there's not a lot of ground for singing out the Germans. I'm afraid everyone's joined in the arms bonanza including the United States and Britain.

"It's a very complex subject and a very complex region, but that is all the more reason why you have to be careful when trying to manipulate the region through arms sales."

"The chorus voices the concern I have for our troops, and indeed all the troops in the Gulf, that the war will not be long and drawn out with thousands and thousands of soldiers and civilians being killed."

Jagger started to write "High Wire" before the UN deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait expired on January 15, and he completed it as the air campaign got under way. The song was a conscious attempt to respond immediately to world events in the way that he had done in 1969 with "Street Fighting Man", which was written after the student riots in Paris in 1968, and in 1983 with "Under Cover of the Night", which described the plight of the "disappeared" in South America.

"We were completing work on our live album and wanted to put a new studio track on it," he says. "I thought this would be a good opportunity to address a current issue. I do like to occasionally touch on political issues at a time when

they are what people are talking about. Pop music has a role there. It should address as broad a range of subjects as possible — not only sex and cars."

Was he, as some critics have suggested, cashing in on the war to boost his reputation and increase album sales? "I think I have as much right to comment on the war as a leader writer on a newspaper, a retired admiral or someone on a talk show," he says. "It just happens that my main medium of expression is song. I don't think that is cashing in. I just think that is fair comment."

STEPHEN PETTIT

BRIEFING

### Homing in on Hughes

Clearly keen to hang on to a winner, Twentieth Century Fox has signed *Home Alone* director John Hughes to make a further three films — *The Nanny*, *The Bugster* and *Ball in Chain* — in addition to Dutch, which has already

completed filming. It is not surprising the studio should want Hughes, since *Home Alone* has just surpassed *Ghost* as the most successful American film released in 1990, with a box office to date of more than \$215 million (£108 million), compared with \$212 million for *Ghost*.

### Simpson lauded

A REMINDER that in 1991 there are other musical anniversaries besides Mozart's. One of them is the

composer Robert Simpson, who reaches the age of 70 on March 2. Three concerts by the Conall Quartet at the Wigmore Hall on March 2, 7 and 9 contribute to the celebrations by including performances of the Tenth, Eleventh and (for the first time in London) Twelfth Quartets. Nobody could describe Simpson's music as avant-garde, but it is renowned for its integrity and often scales Stravinsky-like heights of inspiration.

### Last chance...

KENNETH MacMillan's latest one-act work for the Royal Ballet, *Winter Dreams*, focuses on changing relationships among a group of people while ordinary life goes on behind them. Among them are three sisters, their brother, a husband and would-be lovers. The parts of this Chekhovian theme, played out to piano pieces by Tchaikovsky and traditional Russian guitar music, may prove greater than the whole, but they are parts which both cast and audience obviously relish. The final performance is at Covent Garden (071-240 1066) tomorrow night.

TELEVISION

## Survival across the colour bars

ANDREW DAVIES' screenplay for last night's *A Private Life* somehow confounded all sorts of expectations. Set in South Africa, and starting in 1950, it told the story of a white policeman falling in love with a woman classed as "coloured". The dramatic possibilities of this love-across-the-colour-bar story presented themselves unbidden to the mind. At the least, one expected scenes of trachea-wielding policemen breaking down bedroom doors to discover the couple in *flagrante delicto*, much like the business of Athol Fugard's *Statements After an Arrest Under the Immorality Act*.

What was extraordinary about *A Private Life*, however, was that it did not dwell on the couple's fear of exposure. Jack Dupont (Bill Fyfe) and Stella (Jana Ciliers) were based on a real-life couple, and the film concentrated on the nitty-gritty of what happened within their family, not on what threatened it from without. The "private life" of the title referred not to the free-

doms denied to Jack and Stella, but to the strategy they adopted for survival. By leading an intensely private life, with Stella virtually housebound and the children educated at home, the Duponts managed to cobble together the semblance of a normal life.

Andrew Davies is good on families. In a play he wrote for television in 1989, *Bait-Trap on the Côte Sauvage*, he gave Jack Shepherd a fine speech about how Tolstoy's famous happy-families axiom had got it the wrong way around. In fact, Shepherd said, it was the miserable families who were all alike, and the happy families who were happy in their own way. The family, he argued, was a unit so predestined for disaster that any family attaining happiness must possess extraordinary will-power and imagination.

In *A Private Life*, the poignancy of the Duponts' desire for ordinariness was cleverly demonstrated by making their rare happy moments commonplace to the point of banality: the children playing

hide-and-seek in a Karoo graveyard; Stella laughing at a Charlie Chaplin film. These were not singular people. Even their colour-bar predicament conferred no grand tragic injustice on them. True, it governed every aspect of their lives, and led to the climactic suicide of their eldest son, but it was also simply an everyday fact, endured for 30 years.

Charlie Chaplin was given a second airing last night, in *The South Bank Show's* very patchy programme on Steve Martin (LWT). In an hour's programme where each section seemed to have been included simply on the grounds that it would fill up a few minutes, there was a section in which Martin showed some of his favourite comic clips. While it was interesting to hear him talk about his early stand-up career, it was somehow less than fully absorbing to watch him hanging about on film sets doing nothing in particular.

LYNNE TRUSS

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## BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceeba**  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News. With Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando.  
9.15 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk hosts the discussion programme with contributions from a studio audience. 5.55 Regional news and weather.  
10.00 **News** 10.05 **Playdays** 10.30 **Dish of the Day** from Rosemary Moon 10.40 **Shirley's the Sheriff**. Hildy discovers the true meaning of trouble when Gussie gets a driving licence (r)  
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **People Today**. A look at the lives of people across the UK, featuring Kitchen Call, and Mother of Mine, in which celebrities talk to their mothers about their childhood.  
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather 12.05 **Wildlife Gems**: Fish out of Water. Classic moments from the Natural History Unit archive 12.20 **Scene Today**. Judi Sifers and Alan Titchmarsh present the magazine programme live from Pebble Mill 12.55 **Regional news and weather**  
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather  
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceeba) 1.50 **Going for Gold** with Henry Kelly 2.15 **Starkey and Hutch**: I Love You, Rosemary Moore. Starkey's (Paul Michael Gler) romance with a mobster's daughter causes problems for partner Hutch (David Sout) (r)  
3.00 **Head of the Class**. American comedy series, starring Howard Hesterman as Charlie Moore, a radical teacher in charge of a class of high-school geniuses. 3.25 **Bazzer**. Nerys Hughes presents the lifestyle programme with ideas for people on a low income.  
3.50 **Radio Roo**. A new five-part comedy series for children 4.05 **Jimbo and the Jet Set**. Cartoon about an aeroplane (r)  
4.10 **Jackanory Silver Stories**. Bernard Cribbins makes his 50th appearance on the children's story programme, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, reading *Abel's Tree-House*, a story written by Joan Aiken 4.25 **New Adventures of Mighty Mouse**. Cartoon (r) 4.35 **Thundercats**.  
5.00 **Newsround**. News programme for children 5.05 **Blue Peter**. Children's magazine. (Ceeba)  
5.35 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceeba). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 **Inside Ulster**  
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Melina Stewart and Peter Sissons. Weather 6.30 **Regional News Magazines**. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 **Wogan**. Tony returns from his fortnight away to present an update on last November's Children in Need appeal, with his children in Need co-host Sue Cook, surprise guests, and some of the children who have benefited.  
7.30 **Family Matters**: Boarding Schools presented by John Humphrys. Ian Smith reports on the boarding school system and its effect on the family.  
8.00 **May to December**. Tepee comedy series about an affair between an older man and a younger woman, starring Anton Rodgers as Alec, and Lesley Dunlop as Zoe. (Ceeba)  
8.30 **Wildlife on One**. Unearth the secrets of the world's most dangerous animals. Wildlife film-maker, using ingenious photography to plunge viewers into a world of dark tunnels, revealing the mysteries of the mole's secret way of life (r)  
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Ceeba) Regional news and weather.  
9.30 **Panorama**. Gavin Hewitt reports from the Baltic and Moscow on the momentous political events that have been taking place in the Soviet Union while world attention has been focused on the Gulf.  
10.15 **Match of the Day**. Highlights of tonight's FA Cup fifth round match at the Dell between Southampton and Nottingham Forest. Northern Ireland: Situations Vacant 10.45 **Match of the Day**



Personal views on life after death: Dr Robert Runcie (11.05pm)

- 11.05 **When I Get to Heaven**. The retiring Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, talks to Bishop Richard Holloway about his time in office and his views on the afterlife. Northern Ireland: 11.30 **When I Get to Heaven**.  
11.35 **A Question of Science**. Has the new national science curriculum changed the image of the scientist as a white-coated man speaking only to the elite? John Humphrys discusses the issue with four educationists in front of an invited audience. Wales: Squash 11.55 **A Question of Science**; Northern Ireland: 12.00 **A Question of Science**  
12.15 **News** and weather. Ends at 12.25. Wales: 12.40 **News** and weather

## BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University**: Personality, Development and Learning. Ends at 7.10  
8.00 **News** 8.15 **Westminster**  
8.30 **News** on Two  
9.00 **News** and weather followed by *Storytime* (r) 2.15 **Regional Parliamentary Programmes** (r). Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom 2.45 **Behind the Screen**. David Vickers meets the Top Gear team, who return to BBC2 on Thursday  
3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Songs of Praise* from St Mary's Church, Andover (r). (Ceeba) 3.35 **Caracas**. Bill Thompson discusses J.M.W. Turner's painting *The Fighting Temeraire* (r) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather  
4.00 **Catchword**. Word quiz hosted by Paul Cole



A man in a suit in the Lockhartie bomb: Dr Jim Swire (4.30pm)

- 4.30 **Fighting Talk**. Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter died in the Lockerbie bombing, is the first subject in a new series of interviews with people who feel so strongly about particular issues that they find themselves leaving the "silent majority" and speaking out about what they believe.  
5.05 **Film: The Devil and Miss Jones** (1941, b/w). Crazy comedy with a social edge starring Charles Coburn as a millionaire who poses as a clerk in one of his own department stores to ferret out union activists and get to the bottom of the growing number of employee complaints. But after a while the role reversal changes his attitude towards his own management. With Jean Arthur and Robert Cummings. Directed by Sam Wood.  
6.35 **DEF 10** begins with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Comedy series starring Will Smith as a poor boy with rich relatives. The sweet sound of poetry reads over the serenity of Beverly Hills as a reluctant Will is persuaded by his uncle to join the poetry club at school. But Will is in for a surprise when he meets his fellow club members 7.00 **News** followed by *Snub*. New and indie music kicking hard with rising rapers Cavern, plus video interviews and live footage from Moore and Galliano 7.30 **Job Bank**. Advice on how to become an entrepreneur  
7.40 **Open Space**. Who You Gonna Call? Thought-provoking film made by a class of nine-year-olds and their teachers about bullying and racial harassment. The class is made up of black and white children from Culloden school in east London, the subject of a recent documentary on BBC2, and the film follows how they develop four short plays based upon their own experience and on incidents logged in the school diary. Disturbing stories of verbal and physical abuse of children and their families are told in a frank and articulate manner they give a child's eye view of racist attacks and bullying.  
8.10 **Horizon: The Cures of Karah**.  
● **CHOICE**: A rare kidney disease in the far-off Balkans may seem hardly the stuff of compelling documentary, but Tessa Livingston's film makes a good stab at it. Her twin themes are the plight of the victims, whose kidneys can shrink to the size of a one-year-old's, and long-running arguments among scientists about the cause. The disease first emerged in the early Fifties and affected people in more than 145 towns and villages on the Danube and its tributaries. One town, Karah in the northern hills of Bulgaria, was almost completely evacuated. Medical research was split three ways, reflecting the political divisions of the region, with a Bulgarian, a Croatian and a team from Serbia working on various cures. Various cures were suggested, including polluted water, lead poisoning and faulty genes before the most likely explanation emerged with the help of the Danish pig industry.  
9.00 **Film: Do You Remember Love?** (1985). The moving story of one woman's struggle with Alzheimer's disease, starring Joanne Woodward as an English professor and poet whose success at work is only matched by her happiness at home. As her condition deteriorates she is forced to face up to the reality of her present predicament and her struggle with the disease begins. Richard Kiley co-stars as her husband. Directed by Jeff Bleckner. (Ceeba). Wales: Q.M.  
10.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow  
11.15 **The Late Show**. Ben Wollay reports on how fashionable writers are being blinded with science. The guests include Ian McEwan, William Boyd and Peter Ackroyd 11.55 **Weather**  
12.00 **Open University**: Arts Foundation Course—an historian at work. Ends at 12.30pm

## ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am**  
9.25 **Gulf News** 9.40 **Thames News** and weather  
9.45 **The Time ... The Place ...** John Stapleton chairs a discussion on why some people become obsessed with exercise  
10.30 **News** 10.35 **Thames News** and weather  
10.35 **News** and weather followed by *Storytime* (r) 2.15 **Regional Parliamentary Programmes** (r). Northern Ireland: Growing Freedom 2.45 **Behind the Screen**. David Vickers meets the Top Gear team, who return to BBC2 on Thursday  
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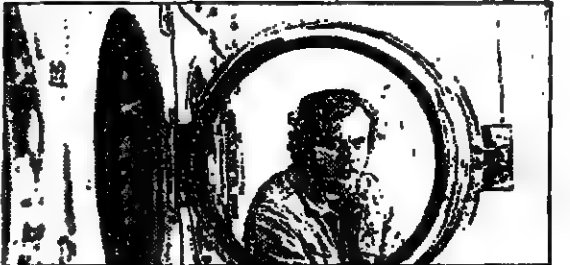


Writer's block: Bernard Hill and Rachel Fielding (9.00pm)

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## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel Four Daily** with news of the situation in the Gulf 9.25 **Schools**  
12.00 **News** summary  
12.05 **All Muck and Magic?** The last in this repeat series of the popular organic gardening programme  
12.35 **Business Daily**  
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Educational entertainment for pre-school youngsters. Today's special guests are Denzel Washington and Carol Channing  
2.00 **Film: Every Sunday** (1936, b/w). A new series of films starring Deanna Durbin looks off with a quaint musical comedy about two golden-voiced girls, the other played by Judy Garland. Their singing boosts attendance for the local Sunday afternoon concert held to raise funds. Directed by Felix E. Feist  
2.15 **Film: Three Smart Girls** (1936, b/w). A light-hearted musical about three sisters who work together to rescue their father from the clutches of a scheming woman. It's pleasant enough in its bland way. Starring Deanna Durbin, Nan Gray, Barbara Read and Ray Milland. Directed by Henry Kostner  
3.50 **The Copy**. Animated story  
4.00 **Travelers** (r) 4.30 **Countdown**  
5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Gay Byrne presents the topical and lively music and chat show from Dublin  
6.00 **Rosamunde**. Dear Mom and Dad. Wiscracking American domestic comedy starring the lovable and overweight Roseanne Barr and the onetime favourite of the moment, John Goodman (r)  
6.30 **Tonight** with Jonathan Ross. The guests are country and western singer Garth Brooks, American comedian Mo'Nique and Todd Carls from the cast of *EastEnders*  
7.00 **Channel 4 News**. (Teletext)  
7.50 **Comment** followed by *Weather*  
8.00 **Brookside**. Red-blooded soap. (Teletext)  
8.30 **My Two Dads**. Foeble American sitcom about a girl with two desperate fathers



A former patient at Rainhill Tim, a schizophrenic (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Cutting Edge**. No Asylum.  
● **CHOICE**: The demolition of Rainhill Hospital, one of Europe's largest psychiatric institutions, links the stories of three schizophrenics who used to go there for treatment but must now cope in the outside world. Anne Parnis's film is an oblique comment on state withdrawal from responsibility for mental care but she is more concerned to present case histories than to score political points. Roy, a man of 50 who suffers delusions that he is Jesus Christ, is the best placed of the three with a wife who is endlessly patient and supportive. But Brenda, divorced, lives with her daughter, also schizophrenic, in lonely poverty. They eat and sleep together in one room and there seems to be little future for either. Tim is cut off from his family and struggles to keep going in a council flat. He takes one lot of drugs for his schizophrenia and another drug to counter the side-effects of the first. He is lamely vulnerable  
10.00 **The Menageries**. Continuing the repeat run of the ingenious drama series about the woman manager of a professional football club starring Cherie Lungh. Tonight's episode includes a guest appearance by television sports presenter Jim Rosenthal (r)  
11.00 **Vinyl**. Lark Steel Rampart (b/w).  
● **CHOICE**: A 1971 documentary by a leading Vietnamese filmmaker, Ngoc Cuynh, shows how a region of North Vietnam stood up to four years of bombing and shelling by the United States during the Vietnam war. No one will pretend that it is an objective account. The commentary brands the Americans as imperialists and the common enemy of mankind and represents a poor and irresponsible community viciously taking on the big bully. However, the rough-cut black and white footage often transcends propaganda. There are many eloquent images, of a woman feeding and bathing her baby, of people huddled together in their home-made underground shelters, of rice and potato fields littered with the remains of shells. Parallels with the aerial bombardment of Iraq will be discussed, subject to the pressures of immediate news coverage. In *Channel 4 News*—Midnight Special  
12.00 **Channel 4 News** Special. More news and analysis of the Gulf crisis. Ends at 12.00am

## ITV NEWS

- Granada Tonight 10.45 Open Eye 11.15  
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- 6.35-6.55am **Open University** (FM only)  
6.55 **News**. News Headlines  
7.00 **Morning Concert**. Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly performs John Wagner's *Symphony Variations* with Jorge Bolet, piano  
7.30 **News**  
7.35 **Living Concert** (cont. Ceeba)  
7.40 **News**  
7.45 **Living Concert** (cont. Ceeba)  
7.50 **News**  
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## BUSINESS

Business Editor  
John Bell

MONDAY FEBRUARY 25 1991

## Industry price rises kept down, says CBI

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GOVERNMENT efforts to reduce inflation show strong signs of working, according to figures published today by the Confederation of British Industry, which reports the lowest rate of expected manufacturing industry price increases for 16 years.

On the basis of this and other similar recent findings suggesting a considerable easing of inflationary pressure, the CBI is renewing its call for more cuts in interest rates and for lower pay settlements.

The CBI's latest monthly industrial trends survey also shows much weaker order books, and the worst output expectations for a decade.

This gloomy prospect is sharply reducing manufacturers' ability to increase their prices, the CBI says. The rate of price increases expected by companies over the next four months is the lowest figure for February recorded by the CBI since the start of its monthly trends enquiry in 1975. Apart from July 1986, it is the lowest single month on record.

Only 22 per cent of companies hope to be able to increase their prices, with 16 per cent believing prices will fall and 61 per cent saying they will be unchanged. The 6 per cent balance expecting to raise prices is sharply lower than the balance of 25 per cent in January and 27 per cent in February last year.

David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said the intensity of competition would hold prices down for many months. He added: "The survey provides a clear indication that inflation will fall steadily and this should provide further opportunities to bring down interest rates and reduce pay settlements."

Orders weakened markedly in February, the survey shows. Sixty-one per cent of companies described orders as below normal, and only 7 per cent above normal, giving a negative balance of 54 per cent. This compares with 44 per cent last month and a positive balance of 17 per cent in February last year.

But output is expected to fall at a faster rate over the next four months than in January, indicating the still-growing impact of the recession.

## Worst of recession 'is over'

THE worst of the recession is over and an economic recovery should become visible within the next few months, even without significant cuts in interest rates. This is the upbeat view expressed by the London Business School in its quarterly economic forecast (Anatole Kaletsky writes).

The forecast recovery is based on a turnaround in consumer spending. The LBS believes that personal savings rates will stabilise, after rising steadily since 1988, and incomes will be boosted by the indexation of allowances and benefits in the Budget.

The LBS assumes interest rates will fall by half a percentage point around the time of the Budget and that further small cuts will bring base rates down to 12 per cent, but only by the end of the year. The forecast also assumes a "neutral" Budget, which would produce a public sector borrowing requirement of £5.6 billion, the LBS estimates.

Despite the imminent recovery, the LBS expects gross domestic product to fall by 0.8 per cent on average this year. Inflation will be down to 5 per cent by the year end.

Leading article, page 15

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.9460 (-0.0120)  
German mark  
2.9258 (-0.0064)  
Exchange index  
94.4 (+0.1)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1846.7 (+2.1)  
FT-SE 100  
2314.3 (+1.3)  
New York Dow Jones  
2889.36 (-2.47)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avg  
25902.81 (-121.56)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Interest rate hopes colour London's view of Gulf war

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

FINANCIAL markets are not expected to react dramatically to the start of the land war for Kuwait unless there is a sharp movement in oil prices. Commentators suggest the prospect of successful land battle was already built into market expectations and London markets could pay equal attention to hopes of a further half point cut in base rates on the back of trade figures to be announced this morning. Some oil analysts expect spot market prices to rise in reaction to the burning of Kuwaiti oilfields, but not dramatically.

Bill Martin, chief UK economist for UBS-Phillips & Drew, said last night: "I don't believe that the markets were particularly optimistic that there was going

to be any peaceful solution." He believed a violent reaction on oil markets was therefore improbable. "I think people will live with the loss of production from Kuwait. The world has lived without Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, as the Saudis provided the balance. There is currently no threat to Saudi fields."

Chris Perry, oil analyst at Gilbert Elliot, thought there might be an initial technical rally caused by the land war but this would not be pronounced and would be followed by a reversion to current levels or even lower, perhaps to \$14 a barrel, as the war continued. As hostilities began in the Gulf last month, some market-watchers were taken by surprise by the movement of oil prices, which fell sharply against forecasts

of immediate and heavy gains. North Sea Brent oil for April delivery ended at \$16.57 a barrel in London on Friday.

For equities, the risk was of a sudden reverse in the military performance of the allies which, although temporary, might send markets back in confusion, Bill Smith, equity strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said. The market would be relying on relatively poor information about what was happening on the ground, in sharp contrast to the situation during the air war. "People will watch the oil market very closely. The immediate reaction to the offensive is not going to be a very dramatic one in the markets, unless there is some big adverse development," Mr Smith said. Current markets were fragile, given the

spectacular gains in equities over the last month, when most world markets had risen by about 15 per cent and the gain in London had been 13 per cent. A further negative point in London was the forthcoming 1990 results season, expected to contain some disappointing figures.

Money markets will, however, pay close attention to Britain's trade figures. City forecasts centre on the current account deficit narrowing further to about £800 million from £840 million in December, as the deepening recession constrains import growth to a pace well below that of exports.

Despite strong signals from the Bank of England, the financial markets last week continued to discount an early half point cut in interest rates. The benchmark three

month interbank rate ended on Friday at 12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> per cent. This failed to restrain the pound within the European exchange-rate mechanism. Sterling closed at DM2.9258, its strongest since January 30. Since the base rate was cut by a half point on February 13, the pound has been firmer against the mark, while remaining close to the bottom of the ERM. Speculation of a cut in Spanish lending rates this week pushed down the peseta, reducing tension in the parity grid and increasing the scope for a cut in British rates.

Prices fell marginally on the Karachi stock exchange yesterday, the first to trade since the start of the allied ground offensive. The index closed just four points lower at 1,552.

## Price rises of 10% expected for electricity

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

ELECTRICITY price increases in most areas of Britain are expected to be between 10 and 11 per cent, though tariff rises due in April could be within single figures for some consumers.

The government is likely to be embarrassed by domestic price increases at this level because they are considerably above what inflation is now and what it will be in April and for the rest of the year. Price rises for large industrial customers will be even higher, and businesses are likely to try to put pressure on the government over the cost increases that will inevitably flow from them.

Full details of the price increases being sought for April by the 12 regional electricity companies (RECs)

are all expected to be lodged by the end of the week with Stephen Littlechild, director general of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), the government's watchdog for the industry.

Under the terms of privatisation last year, the RECs have to notify Ofreg of maximum projected tariff rises 28 days before they are due to come into force.

Ministers are likely to try to take some comfort from the price bids because one of them, likely to be Northern Electricity, is expected to be just within single figures, at 9.8 or 9.9 per cent.

All the other 11 companies, however, are thought likely to press for rises of 10 to 11 per cent under the price formula announced last year by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, which allows the RECs,

in effect, to carry over price increases to the following year if in the year in question the rises agreed have been less than the rise in inflation.

Last week, when suggestions of domestic rises of up to 13 per cent emerged, Professor Littlechild issued a letter making clear that the agreed formula would provide for such increases. Two days later, though, he issued another statement saying almost the exact opposite: that rises would have to be "significantly" below the 13 per cent level.

Normally reliable sources within the industry are suggesting that the reason for the sharp difference between the two statements was that strong political pressure was put directly on Professor Littlechild to resist such high increases, whatever the price formula said.

Both the energy department and Ofreg strongly deny that there were any such conversations trying to exert such pressure.

Large industrial consumers, the 4,000 to 5,000 businesses using more than 1 megawatt a year, have been protesting for some time that the tariffs applied to them are unfair, and many companies, such as British Steel and British Coal, are expecting rises considerably higher than those being sought for domestic and small business consumers who use less than 1 megawatt annually.

Large users believe they may be facing increases of up to 25 per cent or more, and they believe that such increases may have a damaging effect on industry. A number of large industrial companies, such as ICI, are reporting their results this week, and some are expected to cite high costs, including electricity as big influences on their business operations.



Littlechild: change of mind

## Emu talks may show rift over spending rules

From PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

A MEETING of economy and finance ministers in Brussels today could expose a deepening rift between Britain and its European Community partners over how to penalise governments for overspending under European economic and monetary union.

The Treasury will seek to fend off calls for tighter budgetary discipline to be imposed on countries that run up excessive budget deficits. Bonn, which is contemplating tax increases to carry the rising costs of unification, is anxious to have binding rules added to the Treaty of Rome.

Germany is already backed by the Netherlands, and appears to be winning over the French, who are calling for sanctions to be imposed on loose-spending member states, including the suspension of EC budgetary credits.

The controversy will dominate the second ministerial round of intergovernmental talks on Emu, which takes place today.

Britain refuses to countenance binding rules on overspending, preferring prof-

ligate governments to be sent a "confidential recommendation" that would be publicised to embarrass them if they refused to comply.

Officials say Britain objects for reasons of national sovereignty. The government wants to ensure that any future European central bank has its powers over national spending policy restricted.

Britain's position, backed by Denmark and Ireland, straddles the more extreme views of Germany and Holland on the one hand and Italy, Greece and Portugal on the other.

The latter want centralised budgetary controls to remain considerably looser. Germany and the Netherlands want clear-cut fiscal and budgetary disciplines to be agreed between the twelve EC countries before committing themselves fully to a single European currency.

Germany is expected to push for maximum spending amounts, while France wants softer criteria defining reasonable levels of expenditure. Others want exceptions for economic shocks.

## Rival brewers pour scorn on Australian invasion plan

## Germans taste the pure amber nectar

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

DUKE Wilhelm IV of Bavaria must have turned in his grave on hearing that Foster's Brewing of Australia will soon brew its famous lager brand in Germany. For it was Duke Wilhelm who, in 1516, introduced the *Reinheitsgebot*, the controversial purity law, which kept Germany free from "impure" imports.

The break with tradition has been made possible by Holsten, from outward-looking Hamburg, which has agreed to brew and market Foster's beer in Germany. Hitherto such agreements have been to market German beer abroad.

The prospect of an antipodean invasion has been met with arrogant amusement within German brewing circles, which remain unshakably confident that foreigners are doomed to fail. But Peter Bartels, Foster's chief executive, has high hopes of success in what he calls "the homeland of beer".

In March 1987, the European court

ruled against the *Reinheitsgebot*, which insists that a beer must contain nothing other than malted barley, hops, and water. Rice, artificial yeast and finings are verboten, and so are ascorbic acid and the many other additives commonly used elsewhere. To German dismay, the beer law was deemed anti-competitive.

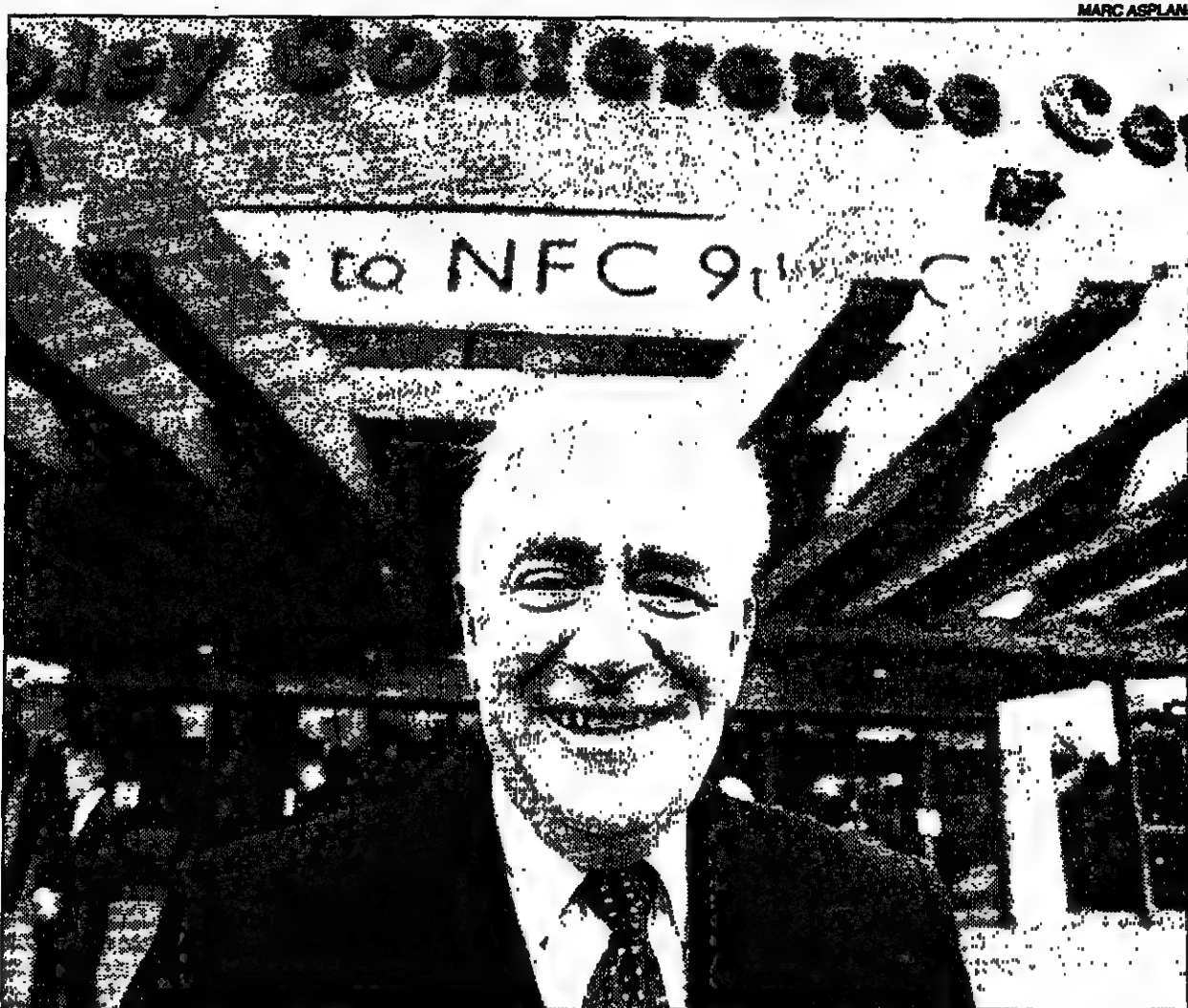
Despite all the fuss, foreign beer has so far captured only 2 per cent of Europe's biggest beer market and most of that is brewed in accordance with the purity laws, such as Guinness or Carlsberg, even though imports of "impure" beer are now legal. The ancient law is still obligatory for brewers inside the country, and will therefore apply to the German version of Foster's. The taste of "pure Foster's" is the subject of intense speculation among beer aficionados.

Having an inside track through Holsten will be crucial for Foster's. German breweries operate a tied-house system based on financing independent pubs, but the arrangements are more exclusive than in Britain. There is no room on the bar for competing, let alone foreign

brands, except specialist beers. Peter Sülle, secretary general of the Deutscher Brauerbund, the German brewers' association, insists pubs would find it hard to obtain finance elsewhere. He said: "It is a simple arrangement, monitored very closely by the state and federal cartel offices under which breweries provide capital for the establishment of pubs, while the pubs enter into a limited supply contract." Mr Bartels hopes to beat the Germans at their own game.

The only other serious attempts by foreign brewers to enter the market were Grolsch's takeover of Wicküler, an upmarket Pils brand, and Carlsberg's purchase of Hanne, a Rhineland brewery. But both are relatively small.

The greatest difficulty for foreign brewers, Herr Sülle believes, is "Germany's atomic market structure". Even the biggest national brands, Warsteiner, Beck's and König Pils, have only minute total market shares. There are 1,100 brewers and no signs of concentration. Foster's may succeed, but the ghost of Duke Wilhelm will live on.



Guarded forecast: James Watson at Wembley on Saturday for his first annual meeting as NFC chairman

## NFC chief makes cautious debut

By MARTIN WALLER

JAMES Watson's first appearance as chairman of NFC, the former National Freight Consortium, before shareholders at the annual meeting at the weekend coincided with the worst economic downturn in the decade since the company was sold to its employees.

Mr Watson was, therefore, offering only a cautious "best view" of pre-tax profits for the current year to the 1,700 who

met at London's Wembley Conference Centre on Saturday, forecasting between £90 million and £100 million rather than giving a firm figure, as on previous occasions.

The "best view", normally given with the preliminary results in December, has already been delayed because of the economic uncertainty. Last year's forecast of £105 million had to be scaled back to £97 million at the half-way

stage, and in the event NFC reported £97.7 million.

NFC also reported its first-quarter figures at the annual meeting, which confirmed earlier warnings that there would be little in the way of property profits this year. Turnover was barely changed but pre-tax profits fell from £21.3 million to £14.3 million in the 16 weeks to January 26.

The company will pay a first interim dividend of 1.2p. No

direct comparison is possible since NFC has now re-balanced its dividends into four quarterly payments.

In the 1989-90 first quarter, the company had the benefit of £8.2 million from property transactions, but the sum this year was a negligible £100,000. The amount allocated to employees in profit-sharing, one of the main planks of its recovery since the buyout, fell by £2 million to £700,000.

## Labour campaign attacked

THE government has attacked the Labour party's new economic campaign, on the importance of manufacturing industry, as misconceived.

Modern Manufacturing Strength, a policy document on the industry, will be launched today.

John Redwood, corporate affairs minister, said yesterday that he accepted manufacturing faced difficulties in the recession, but Labour was wrong to think the government concentrated on the service sector. Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, said manufacturing investment was falling in Britain, unlike in every other European country.

"Manufacture or die", page 25

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## Draft pact on Polish aid agreed

POLISH and International Monetary Fund (IMF) negotiators have agreed on a draft accord granting Poland more than \$2 billion to support free market reforms over the next three years, the official PAP news agency said.

The agreement, reached yesterday, is essential to Poland in cutting the \$46.5 billion it owes Western creditors.

The draft accord was reached after prolonged negotiations that began in Warsaw last November and resumed in mid-January following Poland's presidential elections.

## Caldene sold

Caldene Automobiles, the West Midlands car dealership that went into receivership early last month, has been sold by KPMG Peat Marwick as a going concern for a seven-figure sum. The buyer is Peter Heath, a Sussex businessman.

## WPP to rejig

BANKERS to WPP Group, the marketing services concern, will this week receive proposals for a financial restructuring of the company. The group is holding out against an equity stake being held by the banks in return for their continued help. WPP is likely to agree to a dividend and acquisition freeze for several years.

## Offer refused

Century Oils Group, the independent lubricants concern, described a possible 110p a share offer from Fuchs Petrolub, of Germany, as "wholly inadequate". Fuchs holds 13.5 per cent of Century, whose shares rose from 104p to 112p for a two-day gain of 18p.

## Gatt nations seek to build on EC farm compromise

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

TOP level negotiators begin fresh efforts tomorrow to assemble a deal on world trade in agriculture, after a breakthrough in Geneva last week.

The talks will be buoyed by a new wave of optimism among many of the nations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This may not last long.

The meeting will reveal the immensity of the task at hand. Negotiators will have to build on a formula that appears to sidestep, but not resolve, the transatlantic dispute over farm subsidies.

Arthur Dunkel, the director general of Gatt, hopes that by chipping away at the disagreement between America and the European Community, he will defuse the political tension that caused the four-year Uruguay round of trade talks to collapse in December.

His intention, according to officials, is to give negotiators and diplomats a greater chance to succeed where politicians have failed.

The formula agreed on Wednesday commits the EC and other Gatt members to lowering import barriers. They would have to make specific cuts in payments to farmers for domestic sales and, more importantly, for exports. Mr Dunkel hopes this will convince America and its allies within the Cairns group of food exporting nations that the Europeans are serious about opening their own market wider to foreign produce and about reducing the damaging effect of the com-

mon agricultural policy (CAP) on world prices.

Tomorrow's talks will pave the way for a renewed attempt to decide which export subsidies, internal supports and import barriers should be subject to cuts.

It is still unclear, however, whether the Community's apparent concession will command the full support of all its member governments, particularly France. Community governments have none the less, empowered the commission to negotiate with greater "flexibility" on their original offer of 30 per cent cuts in subsidies.

EC governments are also split on how to reform the CAP. The reform plans will drag on for most of the year, inevitably delaying a deal on farm subsidies in the Gatt.

This could strain efforts by Washington to delay the effective Gatt deadline by up to two years. The Bush administration must convince congressmen that the EC's planned reforms will feed through into genuine cuts in export subsidies and import barriers before winning a stay of execution.

The Community should dismantle the present system of agricultural subsidies in order to save the Gatt talks, according to Eurochambre, the European chambers of commerce and industry. Eurochambre also called for the phasing out of the multi-fibre arrangement and the inclusion of the textiles and service sectors under the auspices of Gatt.



Chipping away: Arthur Dunkel, Gatt director general

## L&M to unveil rescue plan

By JONATHAN PRYNN

LONDON & Metropolitan, the property development group, will today announce a financial restructuring that could pave the way for a return to trading in its shares more than four months after they were suspended at 5p.

The refinancing, put together by Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, involves a complex restructuring of debt repayments and interest roll-ups, as well as an issue of warrants to L&M's bankers entitling them to up to 15 per cent of the equity. There is also a clause giving the banks

the rights to up to 49.9 per cent of the shares in the event of a takeover of L&M.

The deal, which provides L&M with £18 million of working capital, does not involve any new investors. However, it is understood that there will be a reshuffle of the board. The main banks involved are Bank of Scotland, Lloyds, Société Générale and Security Pacific. Shareholders will be able to vote on the reconstruction at an extraordinary meeting in about a month.

L&M will today also unveil interim losses of £87 million for the half year to the end of

last June. This includes an £80 million writedown on the value of the property portfolio and a £7 million write-off of its investment in County Hall Development Group, the collapse of which last year triggered the problems at L&M.

With the new working capital under its belt, L&M will be able to complete the development of a villa complex in France, situate around a golf course designed by Severiano Ballesteros. Since the shares were suspended in October, L&M has completed 11 property sales, mainly of provincial office developments, raising £10.7 million.

## Fleet car market threatened by drive to cut costs

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

STRINGENT cost-cutting imposed by companies on employees' cars will cause a steep fall in the £10 billion annual fleet business.

Fleet orders account for more than half of new British car sales, but a survey issued today says companies facing dwindling profits are being forced to cut back on buying new models and are controlling costs more carefully.

That will have a big impact on the car market, confirming the industry's fears that sales could fall to between 1.6 million and 1.7 million this year from the 1989 record of more than 2.3 million.

The survey for the Monks Partnership, the company fleet analyst, found that two-thirds of 200 companies interviewed planned to review financing and restrict choice of cars for employees this year. Among the half who were changing car policy, 60 per cent of measures were aimed specifically at cost-cutting.

The survey found that cars bought for employees at all levels were being changed less often, many not until the vehicle had covered at least 50,000 miles or had been used for three years or longer.

Tony Vernon-Harcourt, editor of the report, said: "Early in 1990, many companies were expecting that fleet sizes would increase and car choices would widen, with more executives admitted to company car schemes. While company car fleets have expanded, there is no doubt that the emphasis has firmly shifted to stringent cost control measures as companies endeavour to maintain the relative benefit value and choice for their employees."

The effects on companies that rely heavily on fleet business is highlighted by Monks' look at which models executives buy.

Chairmen have switched from Jaguars towards Fords, which are cheaper. Jaguar, which suffered a drop of sales of nearly a quarter in Britain last year and sells 90 per cent of its cars to fleets, showed a fall of 4 per cent among chairmen and a 2 per cent drop among chief executives.

Ford, with total British sales down a fifth last year, lost 15 per cent among area sales managers and showed losses in every other category apart from a 12 per cent increase among chairmen.

A trend towards allowing employees to choose cars within set limits has been replaced with defined lists of cars based on value for money. Monks found that 80 per cent of firms now gave out model lists, compared with 68 per cent a year ago.

Monks' 1991 guide to company car policy (Monks Partnership, Deben Green, Suffolk, Walsden, Essex, CB11 3LX, £30).

## CAPITAL MARKETS

### Borrowers facing \$75.9bn test

THIS year, \$75.9 billion of rated eurobond debt is due for repayment, over 80 per cent more than last year. The surge in refinancing that the figure implies comes at a time of acute pressure on the world's suppliers of long-term capital, and dramatic increases in the cost of that capital.

Even so, Moody's, the rating agency, believes that the experience of the early Eighties recession suggests that refinancing this mountain of debt will not cause great problems.

A Moody's special report said: "Despite the severity of the 1982 recession, once a near halving of inflation opened the way for sharply lower Treasury bond yields, corporate bond issuance rebounded towards the end of the downturn."

"However, certain issuers of more marginal investment grade bonds could encounter resistance when refinancing in a difficult economic environment."

That, at least, is the optimistic view. Doom merchants argue that the cash from the maturing eurobonds will be channelled into high grade government and supra-national debt, with all but the "charmed circle" of corporate names — the IBMs of the world — being left out in the cold.

Two arguments suggest that the pessimists may be right. First, shrinking bank balance sheets mean that the purchasing power of the investor base has been greatly reduced.

This is both because banks will have less capacity to buy paper and because those investors that depend on finance from banks will be able to borrow less. The good old days when junk issues could be sold down to an unquestioning retail investor base have long gone.

The second point is that there has been an unprecedented decline in credit quality during the latter years of the Eighties, a trend continuing in the early Nineties. So, even if investors are prepared to buy highly rated paper, an ever growing proportion of issuers is likely to "encounter resistance" as a result of the deterioration in their credit quality.

Last year, downgrades of credit ratings outnumbered upgrades by 4.93 to 1, an all-time record. This compares with 2.17 to 1 for the Eighties as a whole and 1.17 to 1 for the Seventies.

In practice, the "resistance" from investors likely to be faced by treasurers raises the possibility of some companies having to refinance at spreads outside all historic precedents, if they can refinance at all. With many lower-rated companies unable to raise finance even from the bank market, the bond markets simply will not be an option.

But the cash has to go somewhere, and as the enthusiasm for recent government bond issues has demonstrated, it is likely to be the sovereign issues of leading industrial countries that will be favoured.

The other beneficiary may well be that most fashionable of instruments, equity. With the yields on many companies' shares rapidly closing the gap on the coupon on their debt, equity is becoming an attractive investment option. If so, this year may be remembered as the start of the great deleveraging of the western world.

PHILIP PANGALOS JONATHAN PRYNN

## REPORTING THIS WEEK

# City expects ICI to set the tone on dividend policy

SIR Denys Henderson, the chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, the group that is still regarded by many as a bellwether of British industry, is likely to make a cautious statement on current trading on Thursday after a substantial decline in the fourth quarter.

Full-year pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £1.53 billion to £950 million, according to Ian John at County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £950 million to £1 billion. However, all eyes will be on ICI's dividend policy, which will set the tone for British industry. Most analysts are looking for a maintained dividend of 55p.

At the divisional level only pharmaceuticals, which will be the star performer and account for about half trading profits, will show an advance, with profits projected to be up 24 per cent.

## TODAY

Pete Deighton at County NatWest believes that Vickers, the engineering, defence equipment and luxury cars group chaired by Sir David Plastow, will announce final pre-tax profits of £94.2 million (£83.6 million). Forecasts range from £93 million to £95 million. Earnings per share are expected to rise 10 per cent to 25.7p.

Interests: Armour Trust, Kakuzi, Nesco Investments, Northumbrian Fine Foods, TR European Growth Trust. Finalists: Bensons Crisps, Capita Group, Capital & Counties, Chertan Group, French Property Trust.

Heavtree Brewery, Low & Bonar, Mersey Docks & Harbour Co, Fenelon Inc, Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Updown Investment Co, Vickers. Economic statistics: CBI monthly trends survey (February), balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (November).

## TOMORROW

After the disappointing figures from Lloyds, which was supposed to be the "least bad" of the big banks, attention will focus on current trading by the high street banks, as well as a critical look at dividend growth and income trends before bad debts.

Hugh Pye at Robert Fleming expects National Westminster to show final pre-tax profits of £200 million, against last year's £404 million, which was struck after heavy provisions for less developed country (LDC) loans. This is at the bottom end of market forecasts, which are concentrated at about £400 million and rise to about £500 million. Mr Pye forecasts a 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 18.2p.

British Aerospace, which is headed by Professor Roland Smith, is forecast to achieve a 14 per cent advance in full-year pre-tax profits to £381 million, in contrast to much of the British industrial sector, says County NatWest. Forecasts range from £355 million to £393 million.

BAe is expected to be the first British engineering company whose sales pass £10 billion, with group sales forecast to reach £10.3 billion (£9.09 billion).



Establishing the trend for British industry: Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of ICI

Defence will account for the bulk of profits, while the Gulf war will mean that Royal Ordnance will have been working flat out, compared with about 30 per cent previously. Despite a depressed British motor sector, Rover's share of the market has increased, thanks to the success of the Rover 200, while the Land Rover Discovery has boosted Land Rover sales by about 25 per cent.

BZW expects Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food to consumer products group, to report final pre-tax profits of £1.81 billion (£1.7 billion). Other forecasts range from £1.78 billion to £1.82 billion.

Interests: Bank of Nova Scotia, Consolidated Plantations, Microfilm Reproduction, River & Mercantile Smaller Companies Trust. Finalists: British Aerospace, Campari International, Hewitt (J) & Son (Fenton), Kelco Group, Pacific Assets Trust, Sedgwick Group, TR High Income Trust, Unilever.

## WEDNESDAY

The composite insurers' figures will be severely affected by a combination of the storms at the beginning of last year, subsidence claims and a deterioration in the motor insurance market.

Trevor May at the Nomura Research Institute expects Commercial Union to be the only composite to make a profit, thanks to its extensive life assurance operations. Mr May forecasts a sharp fall in pre-tax profits to £13 million (£10.8 million), although the dividend should go up 9 per cent to 23.5p. Nomura expects General Accident to make a pre-tax loss of £117 million for 1990, against a profit of £127 million. However, the dividend should be improved by 8 per cent to 27p.

Increased production and a higher oil price are expected to help Lasso, the oil and gas exploration company, to announce a net income of £83 million for the year (£60 million), according to Jim Joseph at James Capel. Market forecasts range from £80 million to £85 million.

Interests: BCE Inc (first quarter), Ecco Holdings. Finalists: Aclis, BWD Securities, Cityvision, Commercial Union, Dunedin Income Growth Investment Trust, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, General Accident, Lasso, Nykredit Mortgage Bank, SKF (AB) Group, St Modwen Properties. Economic statistics: Building societies' monthly figures (January), energy trends (December).

Interests: Glaxo Holdings, Goodwin, High-Point, Inver, Macro 4, Oassay Estates, RCO Holdings (first quarter), Scottish Investment Trust (first quarter), Scott, Swedon Jones, Sinclair Goldsmith Holdings, Whinney Mackay-Lewis.

Finalists: Barclay, Cluff Resources, Courtenay Textiles, Cowie (T), Elopah & Overseas Properties, Granton Group, Greenwith Communications, Imperial Chemical Industries, Lancashire & London Investment Trust, Overseas Group, Philips' Lamp Holding, Royal Insurance Holdings. Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations (January), energy trends (December).

## THURSDAY

Alison Deuchars at Smith New Court expects Barclays to report final pre-tax profits of £800 million, against last year's £692 million, which was struck after substantial LDC provisions. Market forecasts range from £500 million to £950 million.

Interim pre-tax profits from Glaxo Holdings, the pharmaceuticals group headed by Sir Paul Girolami, are expected to slip from £585 million to £580 million, according to Nikko, the Japanese securities house. Market forecasts range from £580 million to £600 million.

News is awaited on the progress of Zantac, Glaxo's anti-ulcer drug, which provides about half of the group's sales. Zantac's sales are thought to have peaked and it may have started to lose its hold on world markets because of increased competition.

Nomura expects Royal Insurance to make a pre-tax loss

of £186 million for the full year, against last year's profit of £125.6 million.

Interests: Glaxo Holdings, Goodwin, High-Point, Inver, Macro 4, Oassay Estates, RCO Holdings (first quarter), Scottish Investment Trust (first quarter), Scott, Swedon Jones, Sinclair Goldsmith Holdings, Whinney Mackay-Lewis. Finalists: Barclay, Cluff Resources, Courtenay Textiles, Cowie (T), Elopah & Overseas Properties, Granton Group, Greenwith Communications, Imperial Chemical Industries, Lancashire & London Investment Trust, Overseas Group, Philips' Lamp Holding, Royal Insurance Holdings. Economic statistics: New vehicle registrations (January), energy trends (December).

## FRIDAY

Abbey National, headed by Sir Campbell Adamson, chairman, and Peter Birch, chief executive, is far less exposed to debt problems than most other clearing banks.

Provisions are expected to be up, but they still only represent a minute proportion of advances. However, arrears are expected to show a sharp increase. Dr John Wrigglesworth at UBS Phillips & Drew has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £585 million (£552 million). Market expectations range from £565 million to £585 million. A dividend of 9.5p (8.5p) is forecast.

Interests: British Assets Trust (first quarter), Hickson Estate, Minerva Oils and Resources Shares Fund, Tor Investment Trust. Finalists: Abbey National, Cooper (Alan) Holdings, Inver, Justina, Latin American Investment Trust, Shires Investment. Economic statistics: Final money supply (January).

PHILIP PANGALOS



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For generals and politicians, the day to day events of war are naturally an all-consuming obsession. But in the worlds of business and economics, it is the aftermath of war, and not its immediate prosecution, that should be dominating attention and thought. There seem to be four general predictions about the consequences of allied victory: oil prices will fall; the dollar will rise; equity and bond prices will strengthen further, or at least stabilise at the present high levels; and growth will be boosted throughout the world.

Of these four predictions, the last is the most convincing. Economic growth will accelerate, not only because of a worldwide revival of business and consumer confidence, but also because of the immense reconstruction spending in the Gulf. Unfortunately, however, the oil producers' prospective spending on reconstruction may actually reverse the other anticipated benefits of peace.

The first and most widely held expectation, about a sharp fall in oil prices, is the least likely to be

realised. The reason is that Saudi Arabia will now need money as never before — and, as this column explained just after the fighting started, the Saudis still have the market power to set the price of oil. Iraq and Kuwait will obviously need money to finance reconstruction, but their needs alone would normally have been insufficient to tilt the balance of power in the oil market. In the years ahead, however, Saudi Arabia will also be desperate for extra revenue, not only to rebuild its own infrastructure, but also to support domestic political and social changes and unprecedented levels of assistance to the combatant countries and less affluent neighbouring states.

Ironically, Iraq will almost certainly be among the countries that Saudi Arabia will subsidise for years after the war is over — assuming only that Saddam Hussein is overthrown. Now that the ground war has begun, Iraq will presumably have to undergo

the further humiliation of agreeing to pay symbolic reparations. But once Saddam is gone, his country will be in no position to pay reparations to its much richer neighbours, and it will probably receive their support.

The estimates of Iraq's gross domestic product that are available suggest some rough orders of magnitude for the possible needs. Iraq's gdp in 1989 was about \$66 billion and Kuwait's about \$24 billion, according to figures compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Nothing is known about the value of physical assets in either country, but making a heroic assumption that the capital-output ratio was about 2.5, which is half the level typical in Britain and

other developed economies, the total value of physical capital in both countries would be about \$200 billion. If half of this were destroyed by the war, reconstruction would cost about \$100 billion, about \$70 billion in Iraq and \$30 billion in Kuwait.

Kuwait, with holdings of foreign assets said to be worth \$100 billion, oil exports of \$11.5 billion in 1989, and a native population of only 500,000, might just be able to afford such a bill, although it has spent a good deal of its liquid assets and has committed itself to paying more than \$15 billion towards the American, British and Egyptian war efforts. Kuwaiti officials are already talking of plans to borrow on the world capital markets

against the security of future oil revenues in order to finance reconstruction.

Such market borrowing would not be plausible, even for a reformed pro-Western regime in Iraq whose \$80 billion foreign debt was totally forgiven. Iraq's peak oil exports in 1989 were only one-third higher than Kuwait's at \$15.4 billion, while its population was nearly 40 times larger at 18 million.

As in the reconstruction of Europe and Japan after the second world war, the burden would fall on the victors, above all Saudi Arabia. The economic consequences of this could prove far-reaching. First, the Saudis' need for revenues would change the balance of power in Opec. In the past, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have resisted higher oil prices because their interests lay in maintaining long-term oil consumption, rather than maximising short-term revenues. This calculation will be signif-

icantly changed. The Saudis will still want to avoid excessive price rises, but they will also want to avert any sharp drops. Thus oil price stability at around \$20 a barrel seems much more likely than a drop to \$15 or below.

The Saudis and other rich oil-producing countries could also begin to make demands on world capital markets. Instead of being net savers, the Gulf states will become a much bigger factor than eastern Europe in the much-discussed world shortage of savings. That, in turn, is likely to mean higher interest rates and quite possibly higher inflation rates than before the war began.

To add a further inconvenient wrinkle to the macroeconomic impact, the Gulf countries' borrowing is likely to be predominantly in dollars, to match their stream of oil revenues. But much of the spending will be on capital equipment made in Germany and Japan. If anything, therefore, the end of the Gulf war should point to a further fall in the dollar, at least in the long term.

## Burden of victory for Saudi Arabia

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

## 'Manufacture or die' is Labour's rallying cry



Preaching manufacturing gospel: Labour's Gordon Brown

BY THE banks of the Thames, once London's main industrial artery but now largely plied by pleasure craft, in a conference centre hemmed in on all sides by office employees working away in the service sector, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, will today insist that manufacturing matters.

Flanked by the Labour party's brightest stars — Gordon Brown, covering industry, Tony Blair, on employment and training, and John Smith and Margaret Becken on the economy — Mr Kinnock is due to launch the first phase of the party's new pre-electoral campaign, grandly entitled "Building a World Class Economy".

With cross-party agreement on the Gulf war leaving little room for points of political difference to be made, and the government looking well on the way towards abandoning the poll tax, Labour believes the principal opportunity left open to it lies in the economy.

So Labour will launch *Modern Manufacturing Strength*, not so much an attack on Conservative economic and industrial policies, more a blueprint putting forward what Labour has to offer. Rejecting the extremes of the command economy and the free market, the document attempts to blend elements of both approaches through a range of policies rooted in co-operation with industry.

At its heart, though, is an insistence on the primacy of manufacturing, that a healthy manufacturing industry is vital to Britain's economic recovery. The paper, approved by the party's home policy committee last week, says: "The Conservatives have been deluding us into pretending that manufacturing can, and indeed, should be replaced by the service sector. This is a wholly false dichotomy. In trading terms, as our appalling balance of payments deficit shows, we manufacture or perish."

Trade figures due 90 minutes after Mr Kinnock cuts the tape on the campaign will show whether Gordon Brown, the document's author, has a point. But the campaign raises

questions: how had a state as manufacturing now in? Is Britain now already mainly a service-based economy?

Output in manufacturing has declined steadily over the last decade, and services advanced.

In 1979, manufacturing made up 28 per cent of domestic output. Services were already dominant,

providing 61 per cent. Over the ten years to 1989, according to the government's Central Statistical Office, manufacturing as a proportion of total output fell in every year but 1984 and 1986, when it rose marginally, by 0.88 and 0.75 per cent respectively.

Over the decade, it plummeted by more than a fifth, to the point where it made up

only 22 per cent of total output.

By contrast, the service sector soared. Except for the post-recessionary 1982, when it fell less than 0.1 per cent, services' share of output rose in every year, ending the period contributing 17 per cent more to overall output.

Unsurprisingly, employment has moved in step. Manufacturing employment has slumped from 31 per cent of the workforce in 1979 to 23 per cent in 1990. At the height of the recession in 1981, the manufacturing workforce fell more than 10 per cent as 700,000 manufacturing jobs went. Overall, manufacturing employment fell more than a quarter, and manufacturing's share of the workforce slumped 28 per cent.

Jobs in services grew. From forming 58 per cent of the total workforce, jobs in services grew by a fifth, to end the decade at 70 per cent of total employment. Service employment grew most sharply as a proportion of the total in the early Eighties as manufacturing jobs disappeared, but with the boom in financial services in the late Eighties, the growth in service jobs accelerated, with service employment increasing 4.3 per cent in 1988, after Big Bang in the City.

Although this recession has hit services and manufacturing, as the roll of job losses continues the proportion of manufacturing employment will continue to worsen. Mr Brown believes the number of jobs in manufacturing will dip below 5 million next month.

Labour's document, put together after consultation with a range of industrialists, offers a raft of largely decentralised solutions, including regional development agencies, technology trusts, investment tax allowances and training assistance. Labour charges the government with failing to develop a long-term policy for British industry. What lies behind today's launch is Labour's belief that Britain's economic and industrial future will be the decisive battleground for the next general election.

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## Blots on long bond landscape

GILT-EDGED

For months, base rates were stuck at 14 per cent because sterling was one of the weakest currencies within the ERM. Now, base rates are heading down even though the pound is still near the bottom of the ERM league table. What has changed?

One change has been the attitude of the Bank of England. Towards the end of last year, stronger sterling was a necessary condition for any easing of monetary policy. Now, with the economy plunging into deep recession, the Bank is prepared to gamble that lower rates have been discounted and that easing monetary policy will not necessarily undermine the currency.

The gamble has paid off so far — and will again. The real change since the end of last year is not that the authorities are prepared to take risks but that the underlying inflation performance of the economy has been improving.

Demand, output, the money supply, business surveys, and the plethora of anecdotal evidence in the media all show that the slide in the economy is continuing. The inflation data are no different. The January figures showed a huge 3.5 per cent monthly fall in the prices of

clothing and footwear as retailers tried to shift stock in the face of weak demand. Wage settlements have yet to react but the rise in unemployment is bound to continue and will, eventually, lead to a change of attitudes in the labour market.

Within the ERM, it has always been assumed that a degree of inflation convergence would result in interest rate (and longer-term yield) convergence. What was not clear was how this theoretical proposition could be realised in terms of market tactics given a rise in German rates and comparatively weak sterling. The Bank of England's deft touch in appearing to follow the market showed exactly how that conundrum could be resolved.

As inflation falls to a fourth quarter rate of about 4½ per cent, base rates will continue to fall, probably to about 11 per cent with no devaluation of the pound needed. Indeed, it is only likely to be the pace of adjustment in the labour market early in the next wage round that keeps rates that high.

It all sounds like a golden

scenario for bonds. A virtuous circle of lower inflation, lower base rates and steady sterling. It appears to be the best of all worlds for gilts. And to a large extent, that is right. But there are three problems.

One is that the market has discounted the best that seems to be on offer. Yields on five-year bonds at 10 per cent need base rates to continue to fall to be justified. Similarly, long-dated yields around 9½ per cent are taking a lot about the inflation outlook on trust. Any disappointment about the inflation/base rate timetable could leave the entire yield curve vulnerable.

Second, there is one large negative that comes from recession — increased supply of stock. After a pause of more than two years, the Bank has begun to issue gilts. The Bank has described this as market management or helping market liquidity. Perhaps. But it did not cure the main reason: the government needs the money.

Recession hits revenues and expenditure and the Treasury recently estimated that the fiscal impact of cyclical swings is larger than previously

thought. A PSBR next year of £10 billion could result in gilt issuance of £15 billion. This is not excessive historically or internationally but it will require the institutions to rebuild depleted gilt portfolios. There are doubts about whether this will happen at current yield levels.

Finally, there is the general election. Recessions may be good for bonds but are not good for governments seeking re-election. Even with easier monetary policy and a large relaxation of fiscal policy the economy will still be in the doldrums whenever the government chooses to call the next election. As we move closer to the mid-1992 electoral deadline, the perception of political risk will increase.

Short-dated gilts look well underpinned by the outlook for base rates and, with the risks in most economic forecasts still thought to be on the downside, the bias may be for base rates to tumble more quickly than expected. But with a big change to attitudes in the labour market required and with large gilt issuance in the offing, long yields at this level may not be sustainable.

JOHN SHEPHERD  
SG Warburg Securities

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Swerve goes to the dogs

THERE was a time when public relations firms would think nothing of buying the odd racehorse or two. But corporate activity has now all but died and times are indeed hard; so much so that College Hill Associates, the City PR firm run by the inimitable Alex Sandberg, has decided to treat itself to a greyhound instead. But, determined to add some style to the affair — "to bring some accreditation to the sport", Sandberg says — it has appointed the Honourable Mervyn "the Swerve" Greenway, a Wykehamist and son of the third Lord Greenway, to be its racing manager. Thus dubbed Master of the Dogs, Greenway, aged 47, an old hand at buying both racehorses and dogs for his personal sporting enjoyment, has been given sole responsibility for choosing a hound, which will, of course, be called "The Swerve". Greenway, once a Capel-Cure Myers partner and then employed as a corporate financier by Société Générale until he fell out with the French, is now working independently from his Victoria, London, home, advising small companies. His family's association with the Square Mile dates back many years. In

1914, it sold its controlling interest in Anglo Iranian Oil to the British government when Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty. That share stake subsequently formed the foundation of BP.

### Into the breach

AFTER last week's liquidation of the USM Magazine, Coopers Deloitte, the accountancy firm, has stepped in to rescue the annual USM dinner, due on March 7. With 60 or so tables already sold, and at £700 a piece, many of the prospective hosts were beginning to fear they had lost their money. But after negotiations with Ian Restall, the magazine's publisher and editor, and Robson Rhodes, the firm he has appointed as liquidator, Coopers emerged late

on Friday night to say that it had won the backing of its partners to make good the money lost and assume sponsorship of the event. "We have in principle decided to take up sponsorship," says Graham Cole, of Coopers. "We don't know the exact sum involved yet, because it is all so complicated, but it is quite a big dollop." He is appealing for as much additional support as possible. "There are still tables available."

### Branch office

LEGAL & General has, with effect from this weekend, been left with yet another vacant property on its books, after the move by Leopold Joseph, one of the City's oldest merchant banks, out of its antiquated Gresham Street premises and into a building further down the same street. Legal & General, unsuccessful in its efforts to renegotiate a lease with the bank, can, however, have had little idea what it was up against when it came to the auctions of the rival office block. For it overlooks the site of St John Zachary, one of the few remaining gardens in the Square Mile, and the proud possessor of an Indian bean tree. "So what?" you cry. But the chairman and joint managing director of Leopold, towering Welshman Robin Herbert — rumoured to stand

6ft 7in in his bare feet and also chairman of Union Discount and a director of NatWest Bank and Marks and Spencer — is, it so happens, additionally president of the Royal Horticultural Society. And his over-riding passion, when it comes to horticulture, is trees. "He was particularly keen on this office building because of its historical interest and also because of the tree," jests fellow Leopold Joseph director Mark Robinson, similarly delighted with his new, modern surroundings. "We are finally shedding our quill pen image." However, Robinson, once the Conservative Member of Parliament for Newport West, Gwent, is, he says, spending only three days a week in the new building. He is already preparing to campaign as Conservative candidate for the Somerton and Frome seat in the next general election — perhaps giving a clue that it will be sooner rather than later.

CITY followers of the smaller companies sector have had their ghoulish senses of humour tickled by the cover of the January edition of USM Magazine, which carries a picture of a graveyard. The inscription on one of the headstones reads: "Plot reserved for USM."

CAROL LEONARD



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EDR014



## **SMALLER COMPANIES** **Selective buying could be the key**

**How is it to be repaid?** Institutions, mainly insurance companies but also pension funds, have invested between £1 billion and £2 billion net each year in the Eighties and into last year. Even if £38.9 billion is the total debt, the mismatch is enormous. Poten-



There may be little sympathy with the plight of the property companies but property represents, for most trading companies, the major security offered to bankers for loans and overdrafts. At a time of increasing pressure on

**IAN MCISAAC**  
*Director, Richard Ellis  
Financial Services*

Mr Winterlood and Mr Houlihan both give warning that the forthcoming results season will be a stern test of investors' nerves, with more evidence emerging of a deep-rooted recession. The next four weeks will certainly be crucial.

**MARTIN BARROW**

MARTIN BARROW

Designation Company	Price per Share	Chg last Friday	Open last Friday	High last Friday	Low last Friday	Vol last Friday	Chg last Friday	Open last Friday	High last Friday	Low last Friday	Vol last Friday	Designation Company	Price per Share	Chg last Friday	Open last Friday	High last Friday	Low last Friday	Vol last Friday	
1,700,000	Alco	35.00	..	35.00	35.00	35.00	..	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12,500	Standard Midway	28.00	..	28.00	28.00	28.00	115
11,100	Delta	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	75,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
2,500,000	ATA Services	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4,000,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
3,100,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	6,000,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1,700,000	Thyco	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	44,000
10,000	Albairton Inc	1.00	..	1.00	1.00	1.00	..	1.00	1.00										

[illegible][illegible]

## Luxembourg

each member state the task of determining, for each activity under consideration, whether or not it was able to ensure the non-discriminatory treatment required.

decisions taken by the appropriate national authorities of member states with regard to the entry into and residence in overseas countries or territories by nationals of other member states except to the extent that such decisions related to nationals of other member states who exercised or who sought to

a national of a member state, other than the one with which that country or territory had special relations, in order to establish himself or to provide services there, provided that the person concerned fulfilled the conditions laid down for nationals who were not established in that country or territory and that it could be demonstrated

that it could be demonstrated that the member state of which he was a national provided identical treatment for persons originating from the country or territory in question.



## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check that against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Isc
1	Scot Inter	Property	
2	King & Sherson	Bank, Devison	
3	Read Int	Newspaper, Pub	
4	Clifford Foods A	Food	
5	Scotts Oil	Industrials A-D	
6	Brown & Jackson	Transport	
7	Marion Thompson	Property	
8	South Essex	Property	
9	Microgen	Electronics	
10	Volvo	Electronics	
11	Alfa	Electronics	
12	Heavenly-Sun	Building, Roads	
13	Goodhead	Paper, Print, Adv	
14	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals, Plastics	
15	Freemore	Property	
16	Morgan Cole	Building, Roads	
17	House Of Lanes	Industrials L-R	
18	Granada	Industrials S-Z	
19	Egmont Trust	Property	
20	Canpage	Industrials A-D	
21	Lanka	Electronics	
22	Star TV	Leisure	
23	BAC	Electronics	
24	ASW	Industrials A-D	
25	McAlpine (Africa)	Building, Roads	
26	Lucas	Motor, Aircraft	
27	Island Foods	Food	
28	Barclays	Electronics	
29	Charmant	Industrials A-D	
30	Flint Lease	Leisure	
31	Woolley	Industrials S-Z	
32	Ballway	Building, Roads	
33	P & P	Electronics	
34	Burkdale	Paper, Print, Adv	
35	Johnstone Press	Newspaper, Pub	
36	TIP Europe	Transport	
37	Clyde Pet	Oil, Gas	
38	Smiths Ltd	Industrials S-Z	
39	Meccor	Electronics	
40	Tec	Industrials S-Z	
41	Barnes Plac	Industrials S-Z	
42	Bellway Inter	Newspaper, Pub	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the weekly £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. The money will be added to next Saturday's total.

### BRITISH FUNDS

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

### BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Share Price	Dividend	Yield	Price	Dividend	Yield

# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Capitalisation and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)  
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end March 8. Contango day March 11. Settlement day March 18.  
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield	P/E
1. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
41. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
42. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
43. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
44. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
45. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
46. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
47. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
48. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
49. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
50. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
51. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
52. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
53. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
54. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
55. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
56. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
57. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
58. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
59. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
60. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
61. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
62. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
63. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
64. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
65. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
66. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
67. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
68. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
69. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
70. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
71. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
72. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
73. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
74. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
75. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
76. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
77. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
78. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
79. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
80. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
81. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
82. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
83. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
84. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
85. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
86. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
87. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
88. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
89. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
90. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
91. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
92. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
93. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
94. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
95. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
96. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
97. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
98. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
99. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100. Anglo	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

DAILY DIVIDEND  
£2,000

Claims required for +67 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Company	Price last Friday	Change from prior price	Dividend yield
468,000,000 33.00 471.20 33.00 38.00 38.00 115.20 115.20 127.00 127.00 112.00 112.00 72			



# The MBA defies the recession

**John O'Leary finds companies are still as keen to sponsor students for the business degree**

The qualification dubbed the "yuppie degree" goes from strength to strength, even though the heyday of the young urban professional has passed. The Master of Business Administration (MBA) continues to attract plenty of applicants prepared to gamble on a career break or fit in part-time study.

Since the first MBA was awarded in 1901 at Dartmouth college, in the United States, the qualification has grown consistently in popularity. About 70,000 are awarded every year in the US, and some American universities are beginning to tap the British market. For example, Boston offers a Master of Science in Management programme for British and American students.

Although more than 4,000 MBAs are awarded annually in Britain, there are still at least ten applicants for every place. The specialist company, PastTest, in Knutsford, Cheshire, was set up to test applicants for admission. Next month the first national MBA fair will be held in London. Representatives from leading business schools in Europe and the US will exhibit at the event, being organised by the London university careers advisory service.

More courses are being introduced, offering many methods of study, from conventional full-time attendance to distance education. Rising fees, some now more than £9,000 a year, do not appear to have reduced demand.

Despite the recession, larger companies still sponsor potential high-flyers. The Cranfield school of management, a long-established provider of MBA courses, is doubling the size of its executive MBA part-time programme. Almost 95 per cent of the students are sponsored, the sponsorship varying from full payment of fees to paid time off for study.

On Cranfield's full-time MBA course, 85 per cent of students pay their own way for the year, hoping to reap the rewards of better job prospects on their return to work.

A survey marking ten years of the executive course suggests the optimism is well placed. Average salaries for the class of 1989 rose from £21,000 to £31,000 in the



Serious business: members of an MBA study group at the Cranfield, which is doubling the size of its executive part-time programme

year after completion of the course. Those who finished the course in 1987 had almost doubled their salaries, and former students from 1984 were 186 per cent better off, earning £43,000 on average.

No wonder that more than 70 per cent of those surveyed said they had decided to take an MBA partly to increase income. Yet the acquisition of new skills, improvement of management abilities, straightforward desire for the qualification, the personal challenge and the chance to speed up career progression were more important factors.

Nearly every respondent was pleased to have taken the course, and almost 85 per cent felt their MBA had been important in their career progress. More than 60 per cent had been totally sponsored by their company, a figure that has now risen to almost 70 per cent.

Most had chosen a part-time MBA because they did not want to leave their job, or could not afford to do so. Almost three-quarters thought part-time study was a good way of learning. Companies also played a role in determining the type of course.

The largest groups from the executive programme worked in engineering and research, finance and accountancy, computing and information technology, or marketing and planning. Now there are even MBAs for specific companies or types of occupation. Last month Warwick university started Britain's first master's degree in engineering business management.

In a survey of 50 engineering, manufacturing and construction companies, three-quarters of respondents said traditional MBA graduates no longer met their expectations because they lacked practical knowledge and experience. Almost 90 per cent said they would welcome the new degree.

Professor Kumar Bhattacharya, whose Warwick Manufacturing Group is responsible for the new degree, says: "The classical MBA-trained manager learns a

wealth of business management and analytical skills, but often has little awareness and understanding of the realities of the manufacturing cycle. Engineers understand well the technological aspects of this cycle but may have less grasp of the essential business management disciplines. The new course combines both facets in one package to help to create a well-rounded engineering manager."

Not all new courses are of such quality, however. Professor Leo Murray, Cranfield's director, is critical of some of those now being introduced and doubts the value of the MBA for many of the students trying to get on to programmes.

"The key issue in any business



*"The MBA degree has become accepted quite wrongly as the holy grail, but better ones are evolving rapidly, as they are tailored to the needs of modern management"*

Professor Leo Murray (left)

## Independents go to Europe

**British private education is being sold overseas to beat economic hardship**

MORE than 150 independent schools begin a week of selling themselves to Europe today in the sector's largest overseas (John O'Leary writes). The operation comes at a time when many of the schools are finding it increasingly difficult to fill their boarding places, and a few have had to close as the recession takes its toll.

Financial consultants specialising in independent education have been forecasting that demand for places could fall for the first time in several years. The lesser known schools, which have grown considerably in the past three years, could be particularly vulnerable as the number of pupils of secondary school age falls.

The recruiting campaign in Europe is not only a response to hard times at home, however. Many leading schools, which still have long waiting lists, are taking part in the marketing effort — an exhibition in Düsseldorf, Germany — to build on growing demand. Interest from Europe now extends beyond the traditional field of ambassadors' and expatriate industrialists' children.

Germany has proved particularly receptive to the schools' endeavours, and has provided some outstanding scholars. Rugby school, for example, is expecting Bjorn Peter Killmer to achieve one of the best examination performances in Britain this summer when he sits seven A-levels.

At least 70,000 people are expected to attend the exhibition, called Didac 91, some travelling from eastern Europe. The schools hope to persuade them of the advantages of boarding at a time when it is becoming less fashionable in Britain.

David Woodhead, the director of the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), says: "Parents who might not otherwise have considered educating their children abroad, for all or part of their school years, should think seriously about giving them an education that is envied and admired all around the world."

For some of the schools, it is becoming increasingly important that they do. Although many in or around large centres of population, serving day pupils mainly or exclusively, are experiencing unprecedented demand for places, pressure is building on the rural schools. At the same time, girls' schools are suffering from the

move to coeducation in schools that used to admit only boys.

Three Somerset schools have announced that they are to close this year, the latest being St Audries girls' school, near Wilton. Dwindling numbers of parents have been able to afford the £7,000-a-year boarding fees as the recession has deepened.

Norman Roberts, the chairman of the governors, says: "The problem has been a reduced number of parents sending their children to independent boarding schools during the past 18 months because of the economic recession. Unless a white knight comes along prepared to put half a million pounds into the school, it will close and not reopen."

The school, established 85 years ago, has always drawn its pupils from farming and service families. Mr Roberts says: "Now farmers are experiencing difficulties in finding the money for their daughters, and since the armed services allowance was reduced two and a half years ago, there has subsequently been a reduced number of service children at the school."

THE story is repeated many times over. St Brandon's school, Cleveland, and St Gilda's convent school, Langport, are also closing, while all over the country bursars are finding that more parents are struggling to pay fees.

An annual census carried out by Isis will show in April how this has affected pupil numbers, but officials are in no doubt that the recession is biting. Dick Davison, the Isis spokesman, said yesterday: "It is certainly true that more parents than for some years are having difficulties in paying the fees, although our impression is that numbers are keeping up."

European recruitment may offer some much needed relief if the advantages of boarding can be put across successfully, but it is unlikely to be the salvation of schools in financial difficulties.

Mr Davison says: "I do not think anybody believes that a huge influx of European boarders is going to transform independent schools, but more pupils from the Continent would be welcome for two reasons."

"Not only would they boost numbers, but the schools also feel it benefits British pupils to mix with children from other countries with 1992 on the horizon."

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Learning the ropes: Rochdale junior school children gain traditional skills, and improve their co-ordination and confidence, during the Circus in Education programme

Like seasoned high-wire performers, Samina Khan, aged nine, and Shabana Kouser, 11, walked the tightrope, arms outstretched. All went well until they met in the middle and fell off giggling. As the rope was only 18in off the ground they were not hurt and started all over again.

Nearby were jugglers, stilt walkers, plate spinners, tumblers, and one determined boy balancing a peacock feather on his nose.

Thirty children aged between nine and 11 were practising for their first performance with the Skylight Circus in Education. There are no animals in the circus, and the greasestained performers playing the clowns, careering about on unicycles or climbing the high-wire are either schoolchildren or adult amateurs.

As Shabana wanted to walk the tightrope, I asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. "I used to say 'a doctor'," she said. "But now I would also like to be a tightrope walker - or maybe a juggler."

Shabana's answer would have pleased the Circus in Education organisers. They want the circus to be an educational stimulus and an activity which will be self-perpetuating.

Noreen White, a former teacher, who describes herself as Skylight's administrator and organiser, says that the project is a means of combining circus skills with dance, mime and masque.

## Clowning around to teach concentration

Children may think it's all fun, but there is a higher purpose to teaching tumbling, juggling and other tricks, Bill Hunter finds

Her husband, Jimmy Riley, who also used to be a teacher and is now a circus performer, concentrates on teaching the performing skills, helped by Ms White's daughter, Cathy, and two circus performers, James MacPherson and Mick Chapman. Skylight has also travelled throughout England and Wales during the past two years, staging workshop sessions in schools and other venues.

What Mrs White calls a "modern" style of circus has, she says, a longer pedigree than the "traditional" version - the combination of big top, lion tamer and animal acts.

"Traditional circus, particularly with animals, is a comparatively recent event," she says. "The circus skills we practise - such as juggling, masque, tumbling and clowning - have been around almost since the dawn of history."

Skylight, recently registered as a

non-profit-making charity, generates 50 per cent of its own funding. The government provides three-quarters of the rest and a quarter is paid by the Rochdale Community Education Service in Greater Manchester. Rochdale Community Education has also provided Skylight with workshop premises at the town's Castlemere community centre.

With storage and two indoor training areas, Skylight can stage workshops for local schoolchildren and adults. It can also take its props and equipment to venues anywhere in England and Wales. The training troupe is in demand from a variety of groups, including youth workers, teachers and community group leaders.

Mr Riley and his colleagues have found there is a desire, particularly among young people, to learn circus skills. He says it is

not their aim to replace other subjects on the curriculum, but Circus in Education can, he believes, provide a link between dance, music and sport.

As he surveyed the children from the local Sparrowhill Junior and Deepholme primary schools, Mr Riley said: "I can't count the number of times since our formation that a teacher or head teacher has come to me during a session like this to say they have never seen a particularly child concentrating on anything before. The child is usually totally absorbed in something like learning to ride a unicycle."

"Noreen and I both believe such activity teaches many children about learning and how to concentrate. "We have one child who has

needed pushing by his teachers to work in the classroom. Since he started with the circus, he has set about working by himself to allow extra time to write about the things he has done here."

One of the myths exploded by Skylight is that circus tricks and skills are all difficult to learn. "Many are handed down in circus families surrounded in secrecy," Ms White says. "In fact, some of the basic skills can be learnt easily, as both children and adults have discovered. We also find that people who would back away from playing music or dancing in public find the circus less frightening."

One primary school where a two-day circus workshop was held is Asterdale at Spondon, Derbyshire. The head teacher, Peter Grills, was enthusiastic about the result and pleased that preparation at the school matched the workshop activities.

"The children were involved in a lot of advance activity, which included circus history, circus mathematics and worksheet displays," he says. "There was a lot of preparation, which the children discovered was fun, although it included an educational background."

"The children, and the staff, loved the activities in the workshop sessions. I believe the circus extends many of the activities of primary schools."

Further details: Noreen White or Jimmy Riley (0706 50676).

## Crackdown on truants

MINISTERS are intending to crack down on truancy, demanding monthly returns on school attendance and insisting on strict adherence to the legal requirement for schools to take roll calls twice daily. Some education authorities are already taking action to cut absenteeism. In Dorset, parents whose children play truant may be summoned before a special panel. The education committee is considering forming a panel to involve parents before truancy becomes habitual. David Bowen, an education welfare officer, says the few offenders prosecuted are usually so case-hardened that even the majesty of the law cannot break their bad habits.

## Sound of silence

NOW that any mystery about the prime minister's own schooldays has been cleared up, attention is turning to his stated commitment to educational issues. Labour MPs, having established that John Major made no speeches on the subject as a backbencher, unearthed local newspaper reports of criticism of his silence on educational matters dating back to the 1987 election.

In a letter to Jack Straw, Labour's chief education spokesman, Mr Major insisted that he had made a great many speeches without sending out press releases. "Most of them were to audiences where I suspect Labour MPs would have been thin on the ground," he wrote.

Mr Straw was not satisfied. "How odd that of all these speeches he cannot produce a single cutting of three and a half years as a backbencher."

## Dramatic gift

THE Wolfson Foundation is to give almost £2 million in the next two years to renovate and maintain buildings at 13 universities, six polytechnics and three colleges. The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art will be one institution to benefit. The cash will allow it to open new accommodation.

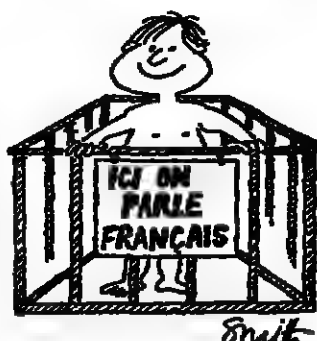
Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, says: "This generosity is splendid news for higher education and will, I am sure, greatly encourage all the institutions concerned. The government has substantially increased its own capital grants

for higher education in recognition of the challenges that the universities, polytechnics and colleges face, but this is very much an area where public and private funds can be combined to good advantage."

## Child's play

EIGHT-year-old Maizie Colyer has become the youngest child in Britain to obtain a GCSE in French, achieving a grade B pass in an examination normally taken by pupils twice her age. Maizie, who is the daughter of a French teacher, attends a primary school at Newport, on the Isle of Wight.

She learnt most of her French by attending school in France for two terms while her parents were on a working exchange. Now her younger brother Hugh, aged three, is also showing signs of taking to the language easily.



## Flying pickets

STUDENT protests are becoming more imaginative, even if not always more effective. A group dissatisfied with plans to merge Bedford and Luton colleges of higher education absconded down the side of a college building last week, unfurling a banner that read, "Poly status now". About 70 others staged an all-night sleep-in outside the County Hall in Bedford.

## Popular view

FAMILIES, employers, teachers and college lecturers in Slough, Berkshire, are to help to mould their town's education service. One in ten families is being asked in a Gallup poll for views on the age of transfer from primary to secondary schools, how children are selected for grammar schools and what options there should be at 16. Berkshire education authority will consider the responses in April.

JOHN O'LEARY

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\* Research findings as reported in the Financial Times



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Plutarchou 1

GR 106 75 ATHENS, GREECE

Telephone enquiries 010-201-282 8750.

## EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

## MASTER

The College has by Statute to elect a successor to the late Professor C.P. Wroth by 25th May 1991, to take up office at a date to be agreed. Anyone of either sex who may wish to be considered is asked to write or telephone as soon as possible but in any event before 11 March 1991 in strict confidence to:

Professor Derek Brewer  
Emmanuel College  
Cambridge CB2 3AP  
(0223) 334200

from whom further particulars can be obtained. The College will also welcome suggestions by others of names of suitable persons.

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